

The Baptist Record

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Benton-Tippah sends construction team to Honduras

While there, they heard strange noises in the attic...

By Lola M. Autry

"Did you hear any noises in the attic last night?" asked Vicki Fox, Southern Baptist missionary at Campa Mento Baptista Bagope on Lago de Yojoa, Agua Azul, Honduras. Charles and Jerrie West and I, from Hickory Flat, gave her a puzzled look.

"What kind of noises?" Charles questioned.

"Iguanas."

"Iguanas!" echoed Jerrie. "Why would Iguanas be in the attic?"

"They have no trouble getting in," Vicki responded, "and you might hear birds up there, too. We leave a light on in the attic every night to keep the bats out. Insects are drawn to the light, and in the early morning hours birds come in to gobble up the insects."

And there are plenty of insects, especially mosquitoes, in this land south of the United States. We were instructed that, before retiring each night, we should put a repellent packet into a little electric contraption. With that going, the mosquitoes did not hang around. Malaria, caused by mosquitoes, is very prevalent in the land.

While on the wildlife subject, it is safe to say that the toads of Honduras are as large as stateside bullfrogs. Three visited the backdoor of our living quarters regularly.

Vicki and her husband Russell have been instrumental for the last 14 years in making this place into one of the most beautiful Baptist camps I have ever seen. The name Bagope has a meaning which truly represents the people it serves: Baptists love fishing. Lake Yojoa borders one rim of the property. The campground's facilities, which includes dormitories, kitchens, dining areas, and a chapel, is used by evangelical groups for assemblies and Bible study.

Coconut palms, laden with golden fruit, tower above the campground. As the coconuts fall they are gathered into small piles to await the machete of assistant camp manager Margarito Hernandez. Banana trees bearing stalks of green fruit dot the landscape, and a sugarcane field is on the other side of the road, separated from the campground by wire nailed to madriago trees which have been topped. These treeposts live for many years. In nearby areas, pineapple shoots spike the hill-sides and coffee plants climb the mountains.

Twelve men and two women, under the leadership of the Benton-Tippah Association went to the camp to help complete a huge dormitory and to teach Bible lessons and crafts to children. Jerrie also cut hair, and I made slides

for presentations at churches in the States.

The Foxes have a winning way of "controlling" those who come to the camp as volunteers in construction and teaching. One morning at the close of breakfast, Vicki stood up and asked for everyone's attention. Her face was stern. "I have noticed," she began, "that many of you filled your cereal bowls with the most expensive cereal we have. From now on, I shall expect you to fill your bowl at least two-thirds with the cheapest cereal, then top that with the expensive." We laughed, but we got the point. The expensive cereal costs over \$8 a box in our currency.

The men were at work each morning by 5:30. They took off a short while during the extreme heat of the afternoon, then worked until dusk. Their main objectives were to roof the building and to install wiring and lights. They accomplished that and more.

Jerrie and I helped assemble roofing screws with washers and grommets and put together lighting fixtures. However, we spent most of our time with Vicki and the children, and the national helpers — Ana, Miriam, and Magdalena.

Thursday evening of the trip, we attended worship services in the



The pastor of the Honduran Baptist Church in San Pedro Sula (and his son) present a red rose to one of the mothers at the church service on Mother's Day. (Photos by Lola M. Autry).

small Honduran church near the camp. We must have appeared a scraggly bunch as we tripped over the rocks in the dirt road in the dark of night. There were a few flashlights being used, but not enough for a "lamp unto the feet" of everyone. We carried cans of insect repellent and even though the small one-room church had a screened door and windows, mosquitoes followed us in. During the service, an occasional hiss from a can of spray was swallowed up in the lusty singing of the congregation, led by Miriam and accompanied by Margarito on the guitar. Although Margarito is not an ordained minister, he preached in the absence of the pastor. Margarito spoke in Spanish, since he speaks very little English.

On Sunday, we attended the English-speaking church in San Pedro Sula and the Honduran church where the Foxes are members. At the close of Sunday School, each of the four children's classes recited the Bible verse they memorized that day. Because it

was Mother's Day, the pastor did not preach a regular sermon. Rather, the service centered around expressions of love for mothers, who are greatly loved in the Honduran culture.

Why would anyone leave a place of plenty and go to a country as poor as Honduras during a hot season, sweat in a broiling sun, fight mosquitoes, and subject themselves to possible malaria or cholera—there has been an outbreak of cholera there this year, and listen for the noises of iguanas, bats, or birds in the attic? There is only one answer. We sang about it at the assembly on the campgrounds and at the three churches, on the dormitory roof top and inside the building, with the children and to ourselves: "He decidido seguir a Christo. He decidido seguir a Christo. He decidido seguir a Christo. No vuelvo atras, no vuelvo atras...I have decided to follow Jesus. No turning back, no turning back."

Autry is a member of Pine Grove Church.



The group from Benton-Tippah Association and the Honduran workers stand beside the new dormitory building. Mississippians included: J. W. Dollar, Bill McCreary, Benton-Tippah director of missions, Billy Self, Pete Pannell, Bill Dowdy, Mike Jett, Bill Davis, Wayne McKee, Steve Fitzgerald, Don Fitzgerald, Jimmy Howell, Charles West, Jerrie West, and Lola M. Autry.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson

Mississippi and the SBC

Since 1845 Mississippi Baptists have been a part of the Southern Baptist Convention. Once the convention met within our borders (Columbus, 1881) and several Mississippians have served as president. The convention has served us well.

We have no SBC institutions nor agencies in the Magnolia State. Tennessee has the Brotherhood Commission and the Sunday School Board. Louisiana has New Orleans Seminary, and Alabama has the WMU auxiliary. These institutions as a rule are located in areas of high population. They are also lightning rods for controversy. When Mississippi enters the SBC squabble, we have to import the argument. Charges of liberal seminary professors, Foreign Mission Board, and Sunday School Board problems would qualify as examples. We are a part of all of these but the actual entity is outside of our state.

The stated goal of our convention, "Bringing Mississippi and the world to Jesus," has a definite place in what we are seeking to do. How does the SBC help (or hinder) in reaching our objective? First, it provides a uniform method of getting funds and personnel to

the mission fields of the world. It also provides theological training for our pastors, church staff leaders and missionaries. More identity is given to us by being a part of the larger organization. Southern Baptists have stood for certain things through the years and the Baptists of our state have been a part of it. We have paid our dues in money and personnel.

A church can not live long on the bread of controversy. When they come Sunday after Sunday asking for bread, "will you give them a stone?" The cold stone of controversy provides little spiritual nourishment. The Pharisees were so orthodox but they fed few and placed burdens on the backs of the people. The fellowship around the table becomes as important as the food served, lest we satisfy the body and starve the soul. Neither can a convention thrive on such cold stones. We need that sense of warmth and trust if we gain the ear of our brother.

Trust comes on the wings of time but can be destroyed in a moment. Distrust, suspicion, the very opposite of trust, will immediately set up a barrier. Communication and fellowship suffer a crip-

pling blow. D. T. Niles describes the love of Christ as being a barrierless love. He broke down every barrier encountered in his ministry: Class distinction, yet he dined with a despised tax collector; sex distinction, yet he conversed with the sinful Samaritan woman; race distinction, yet he responded to the Syrophenician woman; economic distinction, yet he commended the poor widow and her mite. Barriers crumpled in his presence. Paul was a master builder of barriers until he met Jesus.

There are walls of long standing that need to fall. Walls and barriers indicate the spirit of Christ is not among us. Prayer is a formality and nothing more. We become separated in a web of deceit and programs, agencies, churches and conventions pay the penalty. Walls break communication, lowers the trust level, and makes for a long day of misery.

What we have is well worth preserving. There is a wall in Jerusalem known to many as the "wailing wall" and, lest there is a real effort to destroy them, we are going to have some wailing walls in our future. Whatever we gain will hardly be worth the price we pay.



Mothers grabbed little children and plopped them atop the dinner tables. Never mind that they had one foot in the banana pudding and one knee-deep in the chocolate cake. There would be a lawsuit over this; not for disturbing public worship, but, "that was my hound you burned."

Ah, those days of shaped-note hymn books, slatted pews, and long sermons. The funeral home fans, Mims-Mitchell variety, were keenly appreciated. After the sermon the "doors of the church were opened" which was strange, seeing as how they had never been closed. This was their euphemism for joining the church.

After fanning, singing, and cooing for 30 minutes or so, the babies would go to sleep and the moms would slip out and place the little fellows on a quilt in the wagons. Rumors have it that the same baser sort mixed up those sleeping babies in the wagons. Several families reached home before they discovered they had the wrong baby. Needless to say, I've wondered across the years if perchance I had been one placed in the wrong wagon, especially when I note the antics of some of my kin.

Across the years we have tried to perpetuate those hallowed days. Here and there you will still see a rickety runway of boards behind a forlorn church building. Not long

ago I was invited to "dinner on the ground" at a modern city church. I drove up in a wheezy Pontiac, was ushered into a spacious, air-conditioned fellowship hall where we had a delicious meal awaiting. Mind you, it was good, but I missed the outdoors, the horse flies, the dust, and trying to sit on an extended oak root while balancing a plate on my knees.

At the modern city church I was handed a compartmentalized cardboard plate, a plastic fork, and a styrofoam cup of instant tea. This I burdened with commercially fried chicken, deli-prepared potato salad, canned beans, a U-Brown-'em roll, and they pointed me toward a plastic chair.

About that time I recalled the wit of a local sage who observed the best thing about the "good ole days" was the fact they were behind us. Even so, in my mind I could still see the old church yard, my Mama and the other ladies packing up the left-over victuals, tying them up in flour sacks, and placing them in the back of the wagon.

I uncrossed my polyester-clad legs, was tempted to wipe my face with my 60% cotton sleeve, but condescending to modernity, used the allotted paper napkin to wipe away a tear. It was in memory of boyhood days now long gone.

—GH

It's revival season...

Dinner on the ground

It all started back in the olden days to accommodate people coming a great distance to church. The roads were graveled pot-holes and folks came in the family mule-drawn wagons. The more modern wagons had springboard seats covered with hand-stitched quilts.

There was a morning service, followed by dinner on the grounds. Then there was the afternoon service and the people went home. The phrase "drop traces" meant the trace chains were unhooked from the wagon so the mules could move around a little more. You can still hear, "drop your traces and sit a spell," around the old country store. Believe me, it had to do with trace chains, nothing else. The dinner was served on a long table under the oak trees. It was a runaway of gourmet delights and, amidst the shadows of oak leaves, was a thing of beauty.

During the protracted meeting (revival services) which came in the summer after the crops were "laid by" — you could lie about them year-round but you laid by in mid-July. They would come to the church Sunday through Friday and have dinner on the ground most

every day. Scrumptious pies, five-layer cakes, meat and vegetables were in abundance in spite of the absence of gas stoves, microwaves, and fast food outlets at major intersections. You took "lightered" (pine-knots), built a fire in a stove with four eyes and a hot water reservoir, and prepared a feast. All the escrow cooking could be stored in the "safe" — which had nothing to do with Mosler nor banks — a screened-door cabinet built to keep flies and children out.

While Pa hooked up the mules, Ma loaded the food into a dishpan, covered it with a flour sack and then scrubbed and dressed the children. This helps in understanding the legend of the lady who surmised that she had "one lap baby, two knee kids, and three yard young'uns."

Pa drove the team up near the house where we loaded on. You walked not upon St. Augustine nor Johnson grass but on clean scraped, brush-broomed yards. You have lawns now; we had yards back then. It was sheer torture to ride four miles to Goodwater Church with the aroma of pies and fried chicken tantalizing you.

The dogs would follow us until Papa would tell us to run the dogs back home. Not all dogs were as obedient as ours, so usually there would be two dogs per man on the church grounds.

This was the cause of an untoward, SPCA-condemned event that took place at Mt. Carmel Church. By the third day everybody was tired of dogs. They fought, chomped on chicken bones while the preacher spoke in the afternoon, and were not above meandering into the church house.

Some of the baser sort of folks brought small bottles of "Hi-Life" (carbolic acid) and while dinner was being set, each one selected a canine and poured the contents on him. A short-haired feist (a la Farmer Jim) had it to start burning first. He started going in circles, gnawing and barking. By then it had soaked in on a couple of the hounds and five-alarm bedlam broke loose.

Folks thought the Midianites had attacked or the dogs had hydrophobia. Children were crying, women screaming, teams of mules tore up the harness trying to get away from the berserk dogs.

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BookLink announces regional collection point

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP) — The National Fellowship of Baptist Educators' BookLink ministry has named its first regional shipping director and collection point, with an eye to establishing three more collection points as soon as possible.

Tom Booth, a Baptist layman in Aberdeen, has accepted the duties of director of shipping in the Central time zone for the ministry that provides Christian reference and study books for Southern Baptist missionaries and Baptist pastors in 52 countries.

Hal Buchanan, BookLink executive director from Tupelo, said Bible reference, doctrinal, and discipleship materials are "sorely needed" to fill current requests.

"We send a special appeal to retired ministers, teachers, missionaries, and other missions-minded servants who would share

their Christian library reference tools," Buchanan said.

Packages of books should be sent via Parcel Post at the Fourth Class Book rate to Tom Booth, director of shipping, BookLink, Route 1, Box 271, Aberdeen, MS 39730. For now, contributors in all time zones should mail to this address.

According to Bob Salley, director of the National Fellowship of Baptists in Missions, BookLink has been one of the organization's most successful ministries. The educators' fellowship is one of 14 under the Brotherhood Commission's NFBM umbrella.

Since its inception four years ago, BookLink has shipped 59,599 books, tapes, tracts, and other items weighing 11.4 tons to five states and 52 countries. Estimated value of all items shipped is \$137,323.

Clinton, Gore give voters first all-Baptist ticket

By Greg Warner

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (ABP) — By choosing Sen. Al Gore for his running mate, presidential candidate Bill Clinton apparently has given American voters their first all-Baptist ticket for the nation's two highest offices.

Clinton, the governor of Arkansas who is set to receive the Democratic nomination for president July 15, announced his choice of Gore, a 44-year-old senator from Tennessee, in a press conference at the governor's mansion in Little Rock July 9.

Both Clinton, 46, and Gore, 44, are members of Southern Baptist churches and have made no secret of their faith. The Southern Baptist Convention is the nation's largest Protestant denomination with about 15 million members.

A native of Hope, Ark., Clinton

is a longtime member of Immanuel Church in Little Rock, where he sings in the choir when he is in town.

Gore is a member of Mount Vernon Church in Crystal City, Va., just across the Potomac River from Washington. Gore was born in Washington, D.C., as the son of a Tennessee senator, but the family home is in Carthage, Tenn.

Two Southern Baptists have served as president — Harry Truman and Jimmy Carter. But neither had a Southern Baptist for vice president. Although research is sketchy, the Clinton-Gore ticket apparently is the first all-Baptist tandem to seek the country's two top offices.

Warner is editor of Associated Baptist Press.

Cooperative Program receipts show June rise

Mississippi Baptists gave \$1,858,553 through the Cooperative Program in June, according to Bill Causey, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board which distributes the funds.

The June amount is \$596,052 more than that given in June of 1991, which was \$1,262,501.

The total in giving for the first six months of 1992 is \$10,788,431. This amount is \$503,808 (or 4.9%) more than

that given in the same period of 1991.

The pro rate amount, which is the total budget of \$21,588,435, divided into 12 equal parts, is \$1,799,036. Based on the pro rata amount, Mississippi Baptists are right on target with their budget, only \$5,787 (or .05%) under half the total for the year.

Funds given through the Cooperative Program go for state, national, and worldwide missions and Christian education causes.

Algerian Christians report conversions

ALGIERS, Algeria (EP) — Algerian Christians are reporting numerous conversions to Christianity among the minority Berber people, and, to a lesser extent, the majority Arab population, Baptist Press reported. While Algerian Christians could not give numbers of conversions, they said they are elated over the growth. Several sources confirmed the existence of a congregation numbering 200. The Christians attributed the growth to the spiritual hunger of the Algerians and bold evangelizing by Christians, a potentially dangerous activity in the Muslim-dominated state.

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Sunday School Board forces eight executives to retire

By Ray Waddle

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (ABP) — Eight veteran executives of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board have been forced to retire in a "reorganization" effort to make the massive publishing house more flexible and efficient, officers said.

Some employees called the retirements a long-awaited "purge" by fundamental-conservatives. But board President Jimmy Draper called it a painful but necessary adjustment to a changing marketplace.

"This is not a theological issue; some of the men are known to be conservative," Draper told the Tennessean July 1.

"There was no attempt to target anybody. We were top-heavy in management. It's an attempt to structure the board along business lines to make us a more flexible operation. It's a tough time. This is painful for everybody."

Forced to retire were Dessel Aderholt, 62, director of publishing analysis; Martin Bradley, 64, research department director; Andy Dodson, 53, distribution services director; Jimmy Edwards, 54, vice president for marketing; Johnny Godwin, 55, vice president for publishing; Bill Graham, 57, book store division director; David Turner, 56, business planning

director; and Ken McAnear, 58, director of Ridgecrest Conference Center in North Carolina.

"We were told there would not be a place for us in the board after the restructuring but that there would be a severance package, and I feel they were fair to me," said Edwards, who worked there 23 years.

"I wish I could have completed my career at the board," Edwards said, "but the new president has the right to select his own people and fill leadership positions with people he's comfortable with."

Ray Waddle is religion news editor of the TENNESSEAN in Nashville.

Success of Breakthrough pilot spurs statewide expansion plans

By William H. Perkins Jr.

The outcome of a year-long, 16-church pilot program in Mississippi that demonstrated the effectiveness of the Great Commission Breakthrough project has prompted planners in the Sunday School Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) to expand the program statewide.

"We are anxious to see how Great Commission Breakthrough will work on a larger scale. Focusing on the Great Commission will result in reaching more people and strengthening discipleship, which is what Baptists are about," said Keith Wilkinson, director of the Sunday School Department at MBCB.

The pilot program involved churches from north, central, and south Mississippi, ranging in size from 70 to 600 people in attendance for Sunday School. Rural, small-town, and metropolitan churches were chosen for the project, which ran from October 1990 to September 1991.

Final reports indicate that 12 of the 16 churches experienced successful results, with 10 of the churches showing higher enrollment and attendance, and 11 of the churches producing significant increases in baptisms. Two of the churches were successful in implementing the project but have not yet seen an increase in enrollment and attendance.

Great Commission Breakthrough was created by the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist

Convention (SBC) to introduce new outreach and growth ideas to individual churches. Volunteers living across the state will be trained and then assigned to a nearby church that has enlisted in the program, Wilkinson said.

The project includes extensive documentation and step-by-step "how to" procedures for both volunteers and churches. Volunteers will attend a weekend training session at Gulfshore

in Mississippi, 74% had no increases in enrollment or attendance last year. The volunteers must be able to listen and communicate effectively and respond to a wide range of perceptions about how to go about the project, since they will not go to the churches with an inflexible, pre-packaged program," Tompkins said.

To further increase flexibility, scheduling of consultations and other activities is also left up to the volunteers and the churches, he pointed out.

Project goals for this year call for the recruitment of 200 volunteers by August 1, with 10% coming from the ranks of laypeople; 30% from ministers for programs such as education, age-group ministries, etc.; 5% from denominational leaders, such as directors of missions, association officers, and state convention employees; and the remainder coming from pastors. Overall goals call for 200 volunteers and churches per year for the next seven years.

"We believe that if 200 churches per year — 10% of the Baptist churches in Mississippi — experience growth through Great Commission Breakthrough, the impact will be significant," Wilkinson said.

"We have 154 volunteers and 60 churches enlisted in the program for this first year. Since one volunteer will be assigned to each participating church, we need to recruit more churches to balance (See BREAKTHROUGH, page 8)



Blakes reach youths through music at Gulfshore Assembly

By Tim Nicholas

Mack and Shayla Blake who led music during Gulfshore's Youth Conferences, taught the young people a song about Gulfshore. Don't ask what lyrics the kids added to the song. You don't want to know. But the kids seemed to love the music led by the Blakes. And when it was time for the worship time to get serious, the Blakes led the youths in that direction.

Jim Futral, who was guest preacher for one of the sessions, said "That week they (the Blakes) did an excellent job of relating to the young people."

The duo have been coming to Mississippi off and on since 1985 when they led music for a BSU convention in Oxford. Most of their work is with the younger crowd, but they also lead music for revivals.

In fact, at their home church, Temple Baptist in Ruston, La., (their pastor is former Mississippian Robert Magee) the Blakes direct music for the adult six Sunday School Department then rush off to lead music for the

college group.

"I still think we were called to do more youth things," says Mack. Adds Shayla, "We can go crazy with the kids and the next day do a church concert and feel like we're ministering to them."

Leading music takes them away from home about one week a month. They say their three-and-a-half year old daughter Abigail travels well. The rest of the time, Mack operates American Audio Design, where he engineers and installs sound systems for auditoriums and churches, and she teaches private piano lessons. Occasionally, they are called on to lead seminars on contemporary Christian music.

"Luckily, we have the freedom to travel when we need to," said Mack. "Most of Shayla's student go to our church and they understand."

The Blakes have written most of the music they perform. They say a Southern gospel group is recording one of their songs. And the Blakes' latest recording

is called "Daily Graces," which they say should have an appeal to a wide age range.

Shayla had been heading toward a music ministry since her youth. "I had always felt God leading me toward music," she says. "I committed myself to full time Christian service when I was young."

They met at student week at Glorieta Baptist Conference Center where he was singing in a premier of a musical and she was pianist for the week. They worked together because she had arranged some of the music Mack was to sing.

He was at Louisiana Tech earning a math degree and she was at Texas Tech University winding up with a master's degree in piano performance. Dating was long distance — 600 miles — for two years. Surviving that, they married and are now able to blend their musical abilities for Christian service.

They say they know that worship can survive without music, but that it can speak to all people. The goal of an evening with the Blakes and their music is, according to them, "Ultimately, to hear a word from God."

The chains of habit are generally too small to be felt until they are too strong to be broken. — Samuel Johnson



Mack and Shayla Blake of Ruston, La., led music for a recent Youth Conference at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly.



High school students attending a Youth Conference at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly sing a song about Gulfshore which was led by conference music leaders Mack and Shayla Blake of Ruston, La.



Bible Study leader for a session was Jim Futral, pastor of Broadmoor Church, Jackson. With him are Troy Peters, 12, and Chris Bass, 12, both of Harrisburg Church, Tupelo. Futral told youths that they need to be prepared for the decisions they have to make in life. He said to "use your brain and think through what God wants you to do." He said to listen to "your longings as God directs you step by step," and to count on the fact that "God will speak to you."

McCoury, Barbour will lead school for pastors, wives

D. G. McCoury, part-time consultant in the pastoral leadership/administration section of the Church Administration Department, Baptist Sunday School Board, Southern Baptist Convention, and Brian Harbour, pastor of First Baptist Church, Richardson, Texas, will be session leaders at the third annual School for Pastors and wives at Mississippi College, Aug. 6-7.

McCoury will lead sessions on "Pastoring the Church: The Pas-

tor's Role," "Influences on the Pastor's Leadership," "The Pastor's Role as a Church Growth Leader," and "Ten Fatal Errors in Leadership." Harbour will teach the 1993 January Bible Study Preview on the book of Matthew (Chapters 5-7).

All sessions will be repeated, enabling pastors to participate in both studies. For more information, call or write the Office of Continuing Education, Box 4185, Clinton, MS 39058 (601-925-3831).

Partnership agreement finalized between Mississippi and Alaska

By William H. Perkins Jr.

Details of a proposed three-year partnership mission agreement between the Mississippi and Alaska Baptist Conventions have been finalized and will be submitted for approval when the Mississippi Baptist Convention meets in Jackson in November of this year, according to the coordinator of the project.

Paul Harrell, director of the Brotherhood Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB), said the sweeping agreement, which was developed over the past 12 months, will provide a much-needed bond between the 62 Baptist churches in Alaska and one of the strongest state organizations in the Southern Baptist Convention.

"The Alaskans need to feel strong support from Baptists in the lower 48 states. There are several Mississippians serving as pastors in Alaska churches, which range from house churches in smaller areas to modern, conventional church structures in larger cities," he said.

Harrell and Bill Causey, execu-

tive director-treasurer of MBCB, flew to Anchorage in late May of this year to put the finishing touches on the partnership agreement with Bill Duncan, executive director, and J.D. Back, state missions director, of the Alaska Baptist Convention.

The goals of the partnership, as listed in the agreement, call for evangelistic outreach, leadership development through Sunday Schools and discipleship training, construction projects, and fellowship.

"The partnership will require broad based support from all Mississippi Baptists and their organizations if we are to be successful. As one example, under the goal of evangelistic outreach, the Evangelism Department of MBCB has taken on the responsibility of enlisting evangelists and revival teams for simultaneous revivals in Alaska," Harrell said.

Other Mississippi partnership agreements currently in effect include the state of Illinois (through December of 1993) and

the African country of Zimbabwe (through December of 1994).

The challenges in Alaska are impressive, but Harrell is confident that Mississippi Baptists are capable of meeting those challenges in the 1993-95 time frame of the agreement.

"The magnitude of the task is enormous. In the past 21 months, 60% of the churches have had turnover in pastoral leadership. They have a desire to identify with models of Christian leadership in a strong, mainline Southern Baptist state like Mississippi," Harrell said.

Persons and organizations interested in more information on the Mississippi/Alaska Partnership Mission Agreement can contact the MBCB Brotherhood Department at (601) 968-3800, ext. 3934.

Some scholars believe Jesus was 5'6" — four inches taller than the average Middle Eastern male of Old Testament times.

New Orleans Seminary starts associate degree program in Jackson

New Orleans Seminary's extension center for the associate degree program, which formerly met at Clarke College, Newton, will now meet at Broadmoor Church, Jackson, beginning in August.

The purpose of the associate degree off-campus program of NOBTS in Jackson is to provide quality, accredited theological education for pastors, other staff members, and interested lay leaders age 25 or older with a high school diploma or its equivalency.

The associate degree is fully accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

Registration will be at 1 p.m., Aug. 24, at Broadmoor Church. Classes, which will extend over the 16-week semester, will meet Mondays, Aug. 24 through Dec. 14, at the church.

Courses offered during Semester I will be "Principles of Church Growth" (1-3:30 p.m.), taught by Chester Vaughn, instructor in Christian Education at NOBTS; and "Introduction to Psychology" (4-6:30 p.m.), taught by C. Perry Sanderford, family counselor for Rankin Association, Brandon.

For more information, contact Fuller B. Saunders, local director, at (601) 957-2670.

Churches must address today's dysfunctions

By Linda Lawson

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP) — If Southern Baptist churches hope to be relevant to needs of their members and people in their communities, they must address abuse, alcoholism, workaholicism, divorce, eating disorders, codependency, and many other dysfunctions common in today's society.

"In the jaded world we live in, I'm afraid we're not seeing people as Jesus saw them," Roy Edgemon, director of the Baptist Sunday School Board's Discipleship Training Department told a group of pastors attending the July 4-10 Discipleship Training Leadership Conference at Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center. "Jesus saw people. He didn't see them as units of service — barbers, mechanics, shop owners. He saw the individual."

He cited statistics to illustrate the multitudes of Americans struggling to survive day by day. For example, one in three girls and one in four boys will be sexually abused by age 18. Suicide is the third-highest killer of teen-agers. Incest touches one in five Americans. Eleven million Americans are alcoholics and their addiction impacts 26 million family members. Baby boomers are 10 times more likely than their parents to be treated for depression. One in four children lives in a single-parent home.

Divorce recovery, grief recovery, codependency, parents of prodigal children, and many other topics need to be addressed. Special studies for teen-agers also are in the planning stage, Edgemon said.

Lawson writes for BSSB.



Camp Garaywa 1992 summer staff

Pictured is the staff committed to "Be the One" at Camp Garaywa this summer. The girls completed applications, interviews, orientations, and training to be counselors for 2,500 GAs. Theme is "Will You Be the One... Neighborhood Needs, Neighborhood Deeds." The staff has been implementing and emphasizing the characteristics of God to prepare and to challenge each camper to "Be the One" he needs them to be in their own families and neighborhoods. They are, front row: Penny King (Wesson-CoLin), Debbie McCabe (Vicksburg-Hinds), Candy Akins (Canton-Ole Miss), Anna Cheatham (Madison-MSU), Courtney Hess (Vicksburg-MC), Ellen Smith (Greenville-Delta State), Stacey Pearson (Kilmichael-Holmes), Mary Kraft (McComb-MC), Melanie Bridges (Stewart-MSU), Dawn Kelly (Mendenhall-MC), Pam Coghlan (Laurel-

MC); second row: Gina Bishop (Pearl-East Central), April Presnell (Jayess-Wm. Carey), Stephanie Wallace (Pelahatchie-MSU), Robin Garrett (Terry-Hinds), Lesa Hammond (Terry-USM), Shannon Bowen (Eupora-Wood), Linda Henley (Hickory-MC); third row: Paula Albritton (Vicksburg-MC), Kelly Keyes (Laurel-Jones), Net Carter (Morton-East Central), Kelli O'Brien (Lexington-Delta State), Stephanie Engle (Lumberton-Pearl River), Penny Donald (Pearl-Delta State), Laura Eubanks (Leakesville-Jones), Rhoda Patterson (Wesson-CoLin), Nicki Reed (Columbus-MUW), Helen Hoggatt Price (Camp Director); fourth row: Tonya Williams (Hattiesburg-La Tech), Jennifer Vickery (Gulfport-Millsaps), Cindy Edwards (Red Banks-Ole Miss), Wendy McKay (Columbus-MSU); and top: Tracey Smith (Summit-Southwest).

Cornerstone magazine says it finds Mike Warnke's story untrue

CHICAGO, ILL. (EP) — Christian comedian Mike Warnke's book *Satan Seller* opened Christians' eyes to the world of Satanic rituals, orgies, and drug abuse. But according to an investigation by the Christian magazine *Cornerstone*, the book should be removed from the biography section of Christian bookstores, and reshelfed as fiction.

Senior editors Joni Trott and Mike Hertenstein probed Warnke's claims about his life and found many inconsistencies. In the cover story of the July-August '92 issue of *Cornerstone*, they write, "After our lengthy investigation into his background, we found discrepancies that raise serious doubts about the trustworthiness of his testimony. We have uncovered significant evidence contradicting his alleged satanic activity. His testimony contains major conflicts from book to book and tape to book, it contains significant internal problems, and it doesn't square with known external times and events. Further, we have documentation and eyewitness testimony that contradict the claims he has

made about himself."

They conclude, "Mike has sinned against the public for years, and the public is entitled to know the truth about his claims and actions."

As for the dates Warnke claims to have been involved in satanism, said Hertenstein: "Warnke gives just enough information to paint himself into a corner. When you put his story against a real calendar, you see it's impossible for him to have done the things he's claimed."

The *Cornerstone* investigation found that even after becoming a noted Christian speaker and author, Warnke continued to be involved in drinking, sexual immorality, and domestic abuse. "The evidence we've found concerning Mike Warnke's personal behavior raises unavoidable questions about his qualifications as a minister of the gospel," said Trott.

Trott and Hertenstein traveled to Dallas for the Christian Booksellers Association (CBA) convention, where Mike and his ex-wife Rose are announcing the publication of their new book, *Recover-*

ing from Divorce. "Many people don't realize that this is Mike Warnke's third divorce, and that he's already married for the fourth time," said Trott. The *Cornerstone* editors confronted Warnke at CBA and questioned him, but he refused to comment.

MC named to honor roll

Mississippi College is one of only 114 colleges and universities in the nation to be named to the 1992 Honor Roll for Free Enterprise Teaching commissioned by the John Templeton Foundation and conducted by the Foundation for Economic Education.

The honor roll emerged from a polling of presidents and chief academic officers at accredited colleges and universities throughout the United States. It identifies schools that have "an institutional commitment to the traditional Western political and economic philosophies."

Builders for Christ mission team helps build in Okla.

In 1967 Terry and Delphy Cross made a commitment to Christ to use their time and money to help build churches. In 1975 T. S. and Eloise Pigford made the same commitment. These two couples joined in their efforts with others.

The resulting team has helped build churches in many of the 50 United States and Central America. The team has grown to more than 100 members from seven Southern Baptist churches in Mississippi and Oklahoma.

This summer the Builders for Christ mission team felt called to Collinsville, Okla., to pour the concrete slab needed before construction could begin. Seventy team members went to Collinsville, Okla., in June. They worked 12-14 hours daily to construct a building for the Eastside Baptist Church, a mission started by First Church, Collinsville.

The team is headed by Terry Cross of Meridian, who also coor-

dinates the state volunteer building program; and T. S. Pigford from Collinsville, Miss. Their team is composed of members from the following churches: First Church, Collinsville; First Church, Marion; First Church, Terry; New Heights Church, Tuttle, Okla.; Pine Forest Church, Martin; State Boulevard Church, Meridian; and Toomsba Church, Toomsba.

The team is divided into three groups: building, cooking, and Bible School. While the men work on the job sites, their wives conduct Backyard Bible study groups and prepare three full meals each day.

Since its 1991 summer trip to Battle Creek, Mich., the group has worked on three churches in Mississippi: Northeast Mission, Lauderdale; Davis Road Church, Terry; and Meehan Church, Meehan. Members pay their own travel, food, and lodging expenses as a labor of love.



Faces and places

by Anne Washburn McWilliams



Every day seems like Saturday

June 2 — Little girls in pink caps and gowns and little boys in blue graduated from kindergarten in Hogansville, Ga. My great-niece, 5, stepped up to the microphone and said, "I'm fine — oops — my name is Holly Hendrix, and I'm fine. Hickory dickory dock, the mouse ran up the clock...." One boy got his tickle box overturned and brought the house down before he could finish his speech. A girl who had to wait, all nerves, until almost last to recite, walked to the front, placed her hands over her face, and burst into tears.

At the end of the ceremony, they tossed their caps into the air. If I had a cap, that's what I'd do to celebrate retirement, for every day seems like Saturday, or Sunday!

June 5 — How strange to see a matinee movie in midweek!

June 7 — I heard Jay Richardson preach at Morrison Heights' morning service; Dr. Ken was in Indianapolis for the SBC.

June 11 — W. D. moved the whole wood pile in the carport so we could paint the wall behind it. Now why did we not paint it last winter before we bought the wood?

June 13 — Magnificent day for a wedding: Bowmar Avenue Church in Vicksburg and the bridesmaids' red satin dresses glowed in the light of dozens of candles. At 3 p.m. Tim Young married Tammy Hutchinson. Tim is the son of James and Guinevere Young, missionaries to Bangladesh. James performed the ceremony. Tim's sister, Jamie, was a brides-

maid. Philip Thurman, son of Tom and Gloria Thurman, missionaries to Bangladesh, was best man. Among guests I saw were James and Betty McKinley, missionaries I had met in Dhaka, and their daughter Jill. Tim is in law school and Tammy is in med school in Jackson.

June 15 — Usually I get up at 6, but this morning I had a headache, and went back to bed. Next thing I knew it was 9 o'clock. On a Monday morning! What a luxury.

June 16 — My friend who is a consultant for Wycliffe Translators arrived to stay until Saturday. I cooked supper for her, but she got sick enroute and arrived too late to eat. I prepared refreshments for the Sunday School class meeting scheduled at my house tonight; no one came, so I had a self-pity party.

June 22 — After six months of dreaming about it, I made it to the state park on Yocona Ridge at Enid, my favorite spot for camping. Weather was ideal, near 50 tonight; we even needed a blanket.

June 23 — Wonderfully restful day: reading, walking, beginning a jigsaw puzzle, swimming, cooking bacon outdoors.... I struck up a conversation with the two black men picking up litter at campsites. One, who told me he's a Baptist preacher, said denominations don't matter — "Ye must be born again." That's what's important." Further, he said we need to talk to God while we are healthy. Then, like Hezekiah, we can call on him with confidence when we get sick.

My hike was a nervous one because as I started out W. D. warned, "Be careful. There are lots of rattlesnakes in this part of the state."

Two youth leaders at Vaiden Church, Regine Ingram and Anna Frances Havens, asked us to help with their treasure hunt. They and 21 youths from their church and two other leaders, Mark Havens and Donald Cooke, were at the park on "a fun trip." Tonight the youths were given a clue to search for "McWilliamses in a pop-up." If they sang "Zacchaeus was a wee little man," I could give them a clue to send them to the washateria. The clue said, "The place is — is what cheerleaders do."

June 23 — I reviewed the June Open Windows devotionals by Harold Dye. He is one of my favorite writers, and I truly was sorry to hear of his death earlier this year.

Every day in this first month of retirement has seemed like Saturday. If I continue to treat every day like a "free day," I'm afraid I'll waste a lot of time.

Right away I must list some goals and draw up some daily schedules — not too rigid, but then not too easy either. I know I must let the Lord help me with the planning, and leave space for his surprises.

Dye's advice: "Pray that you will dedicate all your days to God.... Pray that you shall so live that every precious moment will count for God."

Supreme Court bans graduation prayers

WASHINGTON, D.C. (EP) — In a controversial opinion released June 24, a deeply divided U.S. Supreme Court ruled that prayers at public school graduation ceremonies violate the U.S. Constitution. The Court voted 5-4 against nondenominational invocations and benedictions at commencement exercises.

The decision came in *Lee v. Weisman*, a case from Providence, Rhode Island, brought by parents who opposed the traditional invocation at a public school commencement exercise.

"This court is not as conservative as everyone seems to think," said Robert K. Skolrood, executive director of the National Legal Foundation. "The decision has little to do with government neutrality toward religion, but overt hostility toward faith, which the Constitution plainly forbids. This ruling ignores the beauty, plurality, and diversity of the religious beliefs of the American people. Now, students will be forced to sit through an exercise that has been homogenized and sanitized of all religious influence by an over-zealous Supreme Court."

Skolrood continued, "It is ironic that the Justices, only moments before issuing this opinion, themselves opened with the invocation, 'God save the United States and this honorable Court!'"

In a brief filed in the case, the National Legal Foundation said

graduation prayers are no different from other forms of public religious expression that have been upheld by the Court. In the 1952 case *Zorach v. Clauson*, the court ruled, "Prayers in our legislative halls; the appeals to the Almighty in the messages of the Chief Executive; the proclamations making Thanksgiving Day a holiday; 'so help me God' in our courtroom oaths — these and all other references to the Almighty that run through our laws, our public rituals, our ceremonies... (have never been held as) flouting the First Amendment."

Skolrood called the Court's ruling in the graduation prayers case "a radical departure from the Supreme Court's historic commitment to accommodation of religion in public life."

Donald Wildmon, president of the American Family Association, also blasted the ruling. "Today's decision is a new low in this country's spiritual decline," he said. "The public schools are handing out condoms to 12-year-olds, teaching children that homosexual sex acts are just fine, and that pregnant students can obtain abortions on demand without notifying their parents. But now if a school allows a three-second nondenominational prayer at graduation, the federal courts will censor the clergyman and impose sanctions on the school. This is absurd."

Association confirms Graham has Parkinson's

By Art Toalston

MINNEAPOLIS (BP) — Billy Graham is "in the early stages of Parkinson's disease," according to a statement released by the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association July 2.

The statement was a response to an article that day on Graham's health in the *Charlotte (N.C.) Observer*, said the evangelist's media relations director, A. Larry Ross.

The BGEA statement said Graham, 73, learned about three years ago he is in the early stages of Parkinson's during a routine check-up at the Mayo Clinic.

"His early manifestations were a mild tremor that causes difficulty in handwriting and some difficulty

in gait and in descending steps without a rail," the statement noted. "Both symptoms improved significantly with a modest amount of medication. Otherwise, he is in excellent health and will continue his normal activities, such as crusades and writing, for the foreseeable future."

Graham "is determined to give his crusades first priority in the next year with meetings planned in Portland in September, Moscow in October, and Germany in May 1993 — which will be extended by satellite throughout Europe," the statement said. "He is also focusing his attention on completing his memoirs."

Toalston writes for BP.

BJC, CLC offer varying views of commencement prayer ruling

WASHINGTON (ABP) — Differences between the Baptist Joint Committee and Christian Life Commission came into clearer focus as spokesmen for each agency responded to the U.S. Supreme Court's June 24 decision barring prayers by clergy at public school graduation ceremonies.

Southern Baptist conservatives, who now control the denomination's political process, long had criticized the Baptist Joint Committee for its stand against government-sponsored school prayer. Because of that and other concerns, the SBC recently cut its longstanding ties with the religious-liberty coalition and gave a new religious liberty assignment to the denomination's Christian Life Commission.

As the Supreme Court considered the *Lee vs. Weisman* case, the CLC used its new position to do what the Joint Committee never would — publicly take up the fight for school-sponsored prayer. The CLC filed a brief asking the court to

uphold the Providence, R.I., school district's commencement prayers and adopt a new standard that would allow government to sponsor religious practice as long as coercion is not involved.

The Baptist Joint Committee joined a coalition in a brief urging the court to maintain the principle of government neutrality embodied in the so-called Lemon test. That brief opposed the school-sponsored prayer found in the *Lee vs. Weisman* case but not every conceivable type of school prayer.

Not surprisingly, the high court's 5-4 decision once again prohibiting government-sponsored prayers in public schools drew sharply different appraisals from the two agencies.

Spokesmen for the Baptist Joint Committee generally were pleased with the decision, claiming "watered-down, lowest-common-denominator, state-sponsored religion is worse than worthless." Spokesmen for the CLC criticized

the decision as "outrageous" and further evidence of America's slide into secularism.

"I sympathize with those who see in this decision the awesome specter of religion being banned from public life," said James M. Dunn, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee. "However, I cannot imagine why anyone would defend rituals that divide, trivialize, and balkanize. I don't hanker to protect and perpetuate 'non-religious prayers.' What an oxymoron!"

CLC Executive Director Richard D. Land called the high court's decision "outrageous" and said it "is one more giant step in the encroachment of the secular state upon a religiously pluralistic society. Once again, the Court has confused secularism with religious pluralism." Land pledged to "continue to fight for the freedom for religious expression guaranteed by the First Amendment to the Constitution until we prevail."

Conference of blind canceled because of low registration

NASHVILLE (BP) — A national meeting of the Southern Baptist Conference of the Blind Aug. 14-16 in Nashville has been canceled, according to the organization's president, Charles Couey of Nashville.

Low registration, Couey specu-

lated, may have been caused by the nation's sluggish economy.

Couey said he hopes the conference will hold a meeting by next spring to increase involvement of an estimated 45,000 visually impaired Southern Baptists in SBC affairs.

You don't work alone . . . we're right alongside you . . . and lo, He is with us always.

alongside



Thursday
July 16

This Issue of alongside is a Supplement to the BAPTIST RECORD, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board



When My Magnolia Tree Stops Blooming

by
Marjean Patterson

The month of May and the first part of June each year provide all of us in Mississippi with a lovely experience - watching our magnolia trees bloom! Now, I know all the complaints about how much trouble magnolia trees are when it comes to raking the leaves. Actually, I don't mind raking the leaves because the experience of enjoying the blossoms has been so wonderful.

Outside the west window of my office at the Baptist Building is a grand magnolia. Over the past 21 years I've been privileged to sit in this particular office, I have watched the growth of MY tree. At first, the top of the tree was two stories underneath my window. There were years when I could just look down into the top of MY magnolia and feel that only God and I ever saw the perfect, creamy blossoms. Now, the tree has grown until its top branches are right outside my fourth floor office window.

Recently, I thought about how ending a church year in WMU might be compared to MY magnolia tree. "Raking the leaves" might take a little time and effort, but my, hasn't the blossoming season been great!

Sure, there are year-end reports to be made, a new slate of WMU leaders to be secured, children to be promoted from one age-level organization to another, church facilities and meeting times to be worked out; on and on it goes. But the joy of what has been accomplished for the Lord this year and the eager anticipation of what He will lead us to do during the coming year causes the myriad details to become insignificant.

I believe all of us in Mississippi WMU organizations have been challenged anew during 1991-1992 as we have remembered that we truly are CALLED AND ACCOUNTABLE. We have learned, and are still in the process of learning, that we must respond to God's call to us and that we are to be His accountable stewards. We have tried to become more sensitive to a lost and hurting world. We are trying to be witnesses to the lost and to minister to persons with all kinds of hurts. We are increasing our organizations in quality and quantity and we are seeking to be a catalyst to help church members act on the leadership of the Holy Spirit in fulfilling the Great Commission.

Though my favorite tree has bloomed out for this year, I know that in May of 1993, I'll be able to once again enjoy one of God's special gifts to me. And, I know that as we wind down one church year and prepare for a new one, we'll be glad that we have been CALLED AND ACCOUNTABLE and just as glad and happy as we consider our 1992-1993 theme, LEAD ON!

LEAD ON AT ASSOCIATIONAL OFFICERS TRAINING

♥ With a Servant Heart

If you missed the Associational Officers Training conferences at Camp Garaywa in April, or even if you didn't, you don't want to miss the AOT in August.

There will be conferences for all associational WMU Leadership: WMU, Baptist Women, Baptist Young Women, Acteens, GAs and Mission Friends.

A very special Extra Conference will be featured at AOT in August. Our new theme book, **With a Servant Heart**, will be taught at each place. Jane Allison of Hattiesburg will teach the book at Brandon and Columbia, and Gretta Lloyd of Starkville will teach at Winona and Oxford.



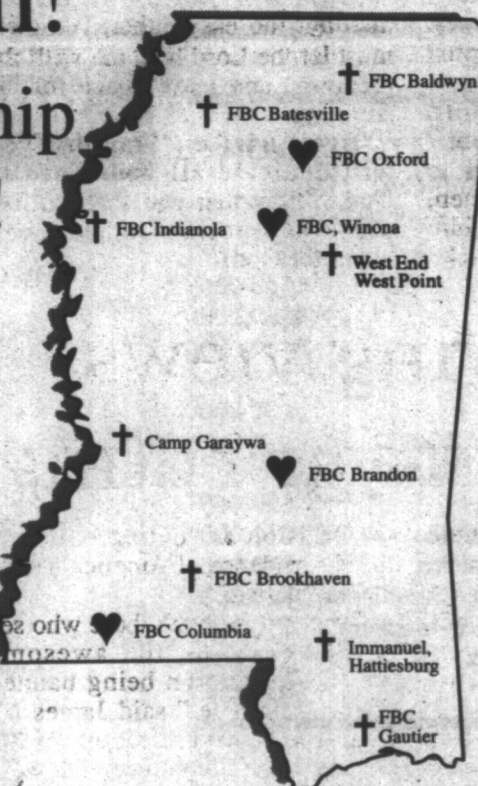
Check the following schedule for a location convenient for you:

- ♥ August 22, 9:00-noon (no lunch served) FBC, Oxford
- ♥ August 24, 5:45-9:15 p.m. (supper served) FBC, Brandon
- ♥ August 25, 5:45-9:15 p.m. (supper served) FBC, Winona
- ♥ August 27, 5:45-9:15 p.m. (supper served) FBC, Columbia

Lead On! In Leadership Training!

† Church Leader
Training

♥ Associational
Leader Training



LEAD ON IN CHURCH LEADERSHIP TRAINING

"Be determined and confident, for you will be the leader of these people as they occupy this land." Joshua 1:6a

You will be determined and confident church leadership, when you attend Church Leadership Training (CLT) at Camp Garaywa or "Garaywa on the Road" conferences in August.

We have assembled the finest WMU conference leaders from across the state of Mississippi to prepare you for your leadership position in the WMU of your church for the 1992-1993 year. These teams of age level leaders will be training leaders at Camp Garaywa and at eight other locations around the state so that all churches can find a location that will be convenient for them.

Set aside one of the following dates now to come and be the leader that God has called you to be in your area of service.

CAMP GARAYWA
August 10; 6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
August 11; 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
August 12; 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

GARAYWA ON THE ROAD
August 13; 6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
FBC Indianola, West End, West Point;
FBC Newton, FBC Gautier

GARAYWA ON THE ROAD
August 14; 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
FBC Indianola, FBC West Point
FBC Newton, FBC Gautier

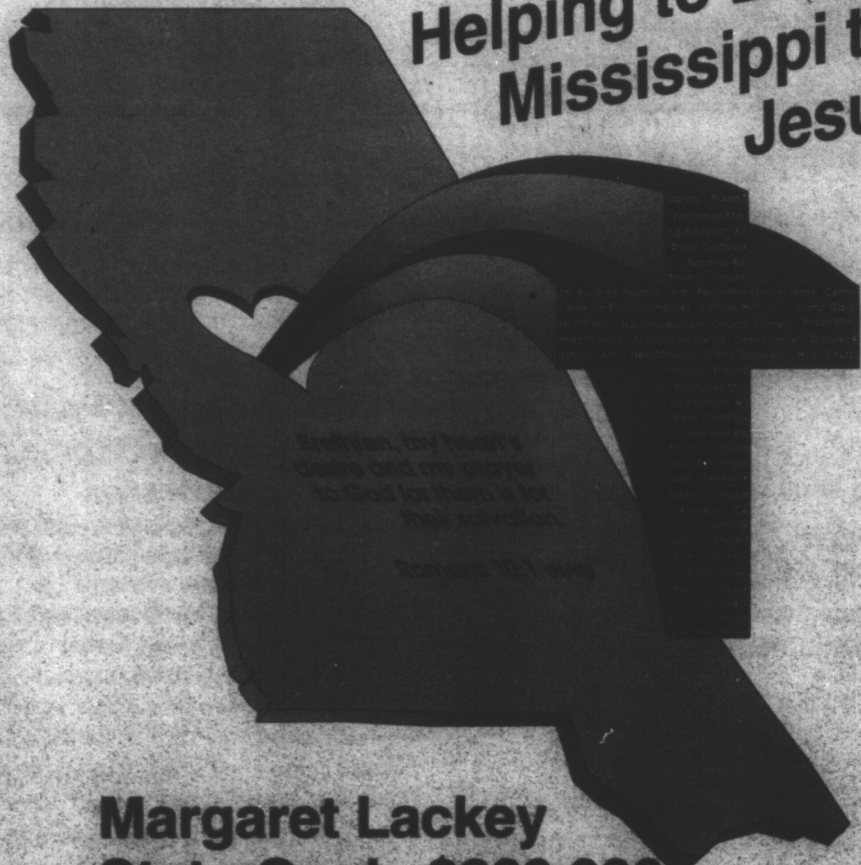
GARAYWA ON THE ROAD
August 15; 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
FBC Batesville, FBC Baldwin
FBC Brookhaven; Immanuel, Hattiesburg

August Church Leadership Training, 1992

CONFERENCE	GARAYWA	TEAM 1 Indianola/Batesville	TEAM 2 West Point/Baldwyn	TEAM 3 Newton/Brookhaven	TEAM 4 Gautier/Hattiesburg
TEAM LEADERS	Marjean Patterson	Ashley McCaleb	Jan Cossitt	Marjean Patterson	Joan Tyler
WMU Directors	Dell Scoper	Kay Hodge	Marion Duncan	Betty Malone	Dell Scoper
Enlistment/Enlargement	Wilda Fancher	Leta Carter	Wilda Fancher	Patti Dent	Barbara Evans
Mission Study	Marjorie Kelly	Faye Sanders	Becky Bennett	Marjorie Kelly	Jane Allison
Mission Action/PW	Sandra Nash	June Overstreet	Fae Maroon	Sandra Nash	Peggy Huey
Mission Support	Betty Dobbs	Frances Downs Helen	Jane Sumrall	Betty Dobbs	Peggy Davis
Baptist Women	Lillian Renick	Johnson	Lillian Renick	Vicki Heath	Margaret Fortenberry
Baptist Young Women	Sharon Neff	Sharon Neff	Deborah Brunt	Holly Redford	Vivian Taylor
Acteens	Linda Davis	Pam Booth	Linda Davis	Diane White	Gail Benedict
GAs	Barbara Wilkinson	Karen Robertson	Pat Crews	Barbara Wilkinson	Diana Daniels
Mission Friends	Susan Beckett	Julia Otis	Susan Beckett	Rhonda Smith	Betty Barber

State Mission Season of Prayer

Helping to Bring
Mississippi to
Jesus



Margaret Lackey
State Goal \$660,000

September 13-16, 1992

LEAD ON IN STATE MISSION OFFERING

"My brothers, how I wish with all my heart that my own people might be saved! How I pray to God for them."

Romans 10:1

All Mississippi Baptists are preparing, even now, for the Margaret Lackey offering for State Missions. Led by the staff of the Woman's Missionary Union, Brotherhood, Student Work and Cooperative Missions Departments. The Mississippi Baptist Convention Board is praying that each church will make this time a matter of prayer and concerted effort to meet these needs.

The goal this year is \$660,000. The allocations are divided into twelve areas. The Cooperative Missions Department sponsors the work done at Parchman and in Prison ministries, Pastoral and Church Building aid, the starting of New Missions with the mobile chapel program and the work of Church Planter, Dottie Williamson.



The Student Work department oversees the work done on college campuses with Black BSUs.

The Brotherhood Department sponsors the camping and retreat ministry of Central Hills Baptist Retreat and the emergency aid given through the Disaster Relief program.

The Woman's Missionary Union sponsors women's training with National Baptists, Indian Work, provides thousands of Acteens and GAs with experiences at Camp Garaywa and Missions Awareness, the education program for this mission offering.

Just as Foreign and Home missionaries depend on us for support, those who serve here in our state depend on us to give them the support they need to bring Mississippi to Jesus. Practically all of us have been touched at some time in our lives by one or more of these ministries. Be an encourager at your church for the support of our Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering.

"Be determined and confident, for you will be the leader of these people as they occupy this land."

Joshua 1:6a (TEV)

Lead On IN BAPTIST NURSING FELLOWSHIP

"Being confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ."

Mississippi BNF Fall Retreat, September 11-12, 1992, Camp Garaywa.

Registration will begin at 4:00 p.m. on Friday, September 11. There will be a missions fair going on at this time that you will not want to miss before dinner.

Other activities for the Retreat will include:

- PraiSing with Denise Windom and Carol Welch
- Relaxation exercises with Pamela Smith
- Prayer Groups with BNF Officers
- Speakers such as; Betty Barham, Carrie Carlson, Linda Solain & Kaye Wilson

The retreat will conclude at 12:00 p.m. on Saturday. BNF members will receive registration forms by mail. Others interested in attending this retreat, please contact Ashley McCaleb, WMU Office, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.



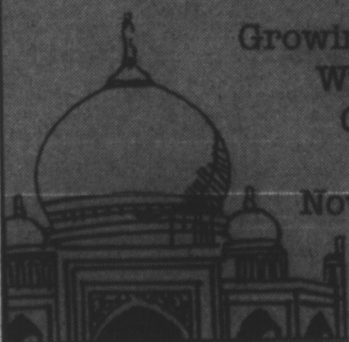
SUGGESTED STATE MISSION OFFERING GOAL, 1993

ALLOCATIONS:	
New Missions	\$165,000
Central Hills	\$182,000
Camp Garaywa	\$160,000
Disaster Relief	\$35,000
Special Ministries	\$7,000
National Baptists	\$3,500
Choctaw Indians	\$3,500
Parchman Ministries	\$20,000
Jail and Prison Ministries	\$10,000
Church bldg/pastoral Aid	\$40,000
Student Work, Black Campuses	\$20,000
Church Planter, Hinds-Madison	\$10,000
Missions Awareness	\$11,000
TOTAL	\$660,000

Foreign Mission Study

Theme:
India:
Growing Cities,
Witnessing
Churches

Nov. 18-18,
1992



WMU CALENDAR • 1992-1993

1992		26	GA Day at Central Hills, 10 am - 3 pm
July	18-24 WMU Conference, Glorieta	October	
August		9-10	Women's Conference: Mississippi College, Friday 4 pm - Saturday 3 pm
10	Church Leader Training, Garaywa, 6:30-9:00 pm	17	Small Church Conference, William Carey College, 9:30 am - noon
11	Church Leader Training, Garaywa, 9:30am-2:30 pm, 6:30-9:00pm	November	
12	Church Leader Training, Garaywa, 9:30am-2:30pm	9-10	Mississippi Baptist Convention, FBC Jackson
13	Church Leader Training, FBC Indianola, FBC West Point, FBC Newton, FBC Gautier, 6:30pm - 9:00 pm	15-18	Foreign Mission Study - India
14	Church Leader Training, FBC Indianola, FBC West Point, FBC Newton, FBC Gautier, 9:30am - 2:30 pm	29-	
15	Church Leader Training, FBC Batesville, FBC Baldwin, FBC Brookhaven, Immanuel, Hattiesburg, 9:30 am - 2:30 pm	December	
22	Associational Officer Training: FBC Oxford, 9:00 am - 12:30 pm	-6	Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions and Lottie Moon Christmas offering
24	AOT: FBC Brandon, 5:45 pm - 9:15 pm	1993	
25	AOT: FBC Winona, 5:45 pm - 9:15 pm	January	
27	AOT: FBC Columbia, 5:45 - 9:15 pm	23	GA/Acteen Day: William Carey College, Hattiesburg 3-7 pm
September		February	
11-12	Baptist Nursing Fellowship retreat: Garaywa, Friday 6 pm - Saturday 1 pm	20	Small Church Conference; FBC Charleston, 9:30 am - noon
1-12	GAs Plus One, Garaywa, Friday 4 pm - Saturday 12:30 pm	21-24	Home Mission Study
13-16	State Mission Season of Prayer - Margaret Lackey Offering	26-27	BW/BYW Retreat; Camp Garaywa 4 pm Friday - Saturday 2 pm
19	Small Church Conference: FBC Newton, 9:30 am - noon.	March	
		7-14	Week of Prayer for Home Missions & Annie Armstrong Easter Offering
		13	GA Day at Central Hills Retreat; 10 am - 3 pm
		19-20	WMU Annual Meeting, FBC Gulfport, 2 pm Friday - Saturday 4 pm
		19-20	Youth Coed Missions Convention, Mississippi Gulf Coast Coliseum, 6 pm Friday - Saturday 1 pm

LEAD ON - MC Nurses on Mission in Mexico

by Cindy Coon

After hearing Delores York speak at a Baptist Nursing Fellowship retreat last fall, Denise Windom and Monica Maxwell approached their Mississippi College nursing instructor, Kaye Wilson, who was also speaking at the meeting, about the possibility of their class doing mission work themselves.

For the next several weeks, the Non-Clinical Nursing class spent a great deal of time in prayer, research and study preparing to go to Cone-Oasis Baptist Encampment in La Feria, Texas, part of the Rio Grande Valley Baptist Association.

The senior nursing students enlisted the help of Cecile Alexander, recently retired missionary and Spanish teacher from Argentina, to help them with Spanish and cultural difficulties.

With an invitation from Delores York and her husband Sam, volunteer missionaries, and with permission of Mississippi College, on June 13, eleven nurses began a week they would never forget.

The Yorks used the camp facilities to house many groups that came to the area for mission work: nurses, construction crews, Bible school groups, BSU summer missionaries, etc.

The nurses, led by Kaye Wilson, assisted Delores York in treating patients at five clinics in rural areas across the Mexican border. These clinics had been set up by Baptist churches as a means of meeting the physical as well as spiritual needs of the rural people. The nurses rotated through each of the five clinics aiding Delores with pharmacy help, delousing, doing puppet shows and many other jobs.

The most overwhelming impression for all of the nurses were the deplorable

conditions to which the people were accustomed. Karen Joseph said that she was amazed at the dirt floors, lack of any plumbing facilities, and the inadequate food supply. Many cases of lice and worms



First row: Mrs. Cecile Alexander, Monica Maxwell, Patti Corden Ray, Kaye Wilson, Assistant Professor. Second row: Denise Windom, Karen Joseph, Tracy McCord, Joan McArthur. Third Row: Kay Travis, Mandy Kitchens, Lezlie Chalk, Sherrie Long.

were attributed to unsanitary conditions. Denise Windom added that the Mexican children ate fruit that the camp was ready to discard.

Lezlie Chalk was enthralled with the dedication of Delores. Lezlie observed that She was always positive about the endless days and infinite responsibilities that she performed without pay.

Joan McArthur noted that neither the clinics nor the people received any financial aid from the government such as Med-

icaid or other assistance that we are accustomed to in the states. Karen and Joan recalled an incident where Delores prescribed medication for an epileptic man and then purchased the medicine herself

because he could not afford it.

Tracey McCord related a story that had made a lasting impact on her life. As the group got to know a young 22 year old Mexican girl who had just become a Christian, the girl, with the help from an interpreter, told them that her family did not know Jesus. As the nurses cried and prayed with her, the interpreter said, "You can't understand them and they can't understand you but through Jesus one day, we will all understand."

Denise Windom confessed that she cried many tears into her pillow one night after going to the home of a little boy to give him an IV. They didn't know if the child would live or die and the poverty around him was devastating. Kaye Wilson, Denise and Tracy held the child and prayed for him there in the house. As the week progressed, so did he.

Kay Travis summed up her feelings and the events of the trip from thoughts written in her travel log:

"We didn't know what rugged vans that we would travel in, but they got us there and back.

We didn't know that we would eat peanut butter sandwiches every day but we were never hungry.

We didn't know what kind of buildings that we would work in but they were sufficient.

We didn't know what kind of outhouses we would have, but we sweated it out—literally.

We didn't know how hot it would be but we were cool and calm inside.

We didn't know what long, hard hours it would be but He gave us strength to keep going.

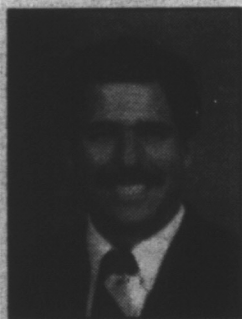
We didn't know Spanish, but God provided us with those who did.

We didn't know much about the Mexican people, but now they have special place in our hearts.

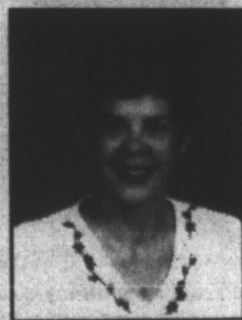
We didn't know about the spiritual aspects of nursing, but now we've seen nursing as a ministry and a profession firsthand.

We didn't know how God would meet all our needs but we knew that He would, and He did."

LEAD ON AT THE Lay Missions Conference



Bruce Allen



Laura Allen

The Lay Missions Conference will be held at First Baptist Church of Jackson on November 9, 1992. There will be Mission Fellowship time from 1:00 p.m. until 2:45 p.m.

From 3:00 until 4:45 p.m. will be "Selecting Your Ministry in the Marketplace" with special guests, Rev. and Mrs. Bruce Allen of Centerville, Georgia. Rev. Allen is pastor in Centerville and was formerly a consultant with the Georgia Baptist Convention Evangelism Department. Mrs. Allen, the former Laura Fry, was on the staff of the Home Mission Board, serving as a consultant in evangelism among women.

The annual Lay Missions Banquet will begin at 5:00 in Banquet Hall East of First Baptist Church. The speaker for the banquet will be Jeannette Clift George, who starred as Corrie Ten Boom in *The Hiding Place*.

The cost of the banquet is \$7.50 each and reservations must be made no later than November 4, 1992. Mail number of meal reservations with your check to Brotherhood Department, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.



Jewel Merritt



Linda Donnell

LEAD ON at the Baptist Women/Baptist Young Women Retreat

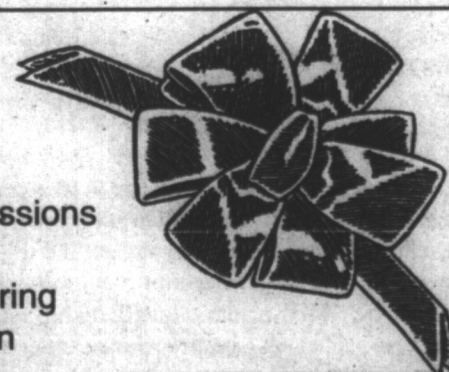
Keep your eyes and ears open, BWs and BYWs, for more information to come later about the BW/BYW Retreat at Camp Garaywa on February 26-27, 1993. Registration will begin at 4:00 p.m. on Friday the 26th and the retreat will conclude after lunch on Saturday.

Program personalities for the retreat will include Linda Donnell of Hattiesburg, co-author of the book *Bloom*; Jewel Merritt, Bible Study leader from First Baptist of Jackson and others.

Plan now to devote these hours in personal renewal and refreshment as you meet and relate to other women like yourself on mission for God.

DECLARE
HOPE

Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions
Nov. 29-Dec. 6, 1992
Lottie Moon Christmas Offering
National goal: \$84 million



alongside

WOMEN'S CONFERENCE Mississippi College Clinton, Miss.

OCTOBER 9-10, 1992

sponsored by Woman's Missionary Union

The women of Mississippi have a unique opportunity to focus on God's leadership in various areas of their lives this October. WMU is sponsoring the Women's Conference at Mississippi College on October 9-10, 1992, with the theme "Lead On."

The conferences will give special emphasis on specific ways to be leaders in their sphere of influence: family, church, workplace, community and the world.

Special speakers for this two-day event will be Dr. Dellanna O'Brien, Executive Director of WMU, SBC, and former foreign missionary; Joyce Landorf Heatherley, prolific writer and dynamic speaker; Dr. Lynne Cheney of Washington D.C., author and chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities and wife of the Secretary of Defense; Jeannette Clift George, Christian dramatist, star of "The Hiding Place", and founder of the After Dinner Players. Special music will be performed by Cynthia Clawson, winner of Grammy and Dove awards with twelve Christian albums.

Other program personalities will include; Pat Fordice, Mississippi's First Lady, Patricia Lott (Mrs. Trent Lott), Marjorie Kelly, Dottie Hudson, Lisa Leavell, Josephine Bryan, Dottie Williamson, Myrtice Owens and Linda Donnell.

There will be displays from missionaries Major and June McDaniel of Korea and David and Barbara Murray of France.

Registration will begin at 10:00 a.m. on Friday in the foyer of the Mississippi College Coliseum. Groups or individuals that have pre registered can have a contact person check in after that time. There will be a table for new registrations. The cost for the conference is \$20.00 per person which includes lunch on Saturday.

Early-bird conferences will begin at 2:00 p.m. on Friday afternoon and will feature the following conferences and leaders:

Woman on the Go: Making Time for MissionsKaren Simons
Don't Miss the Blessing: Minister's WivesJoAnn Leavell
Issues and Answers: Life and DeathSusie Simmons
Who's Minding the Kids?Gwen Williams
Prayer: My Church's Missing Link?Charles & Indy Whitten
Integrity in My Work PlaceSusie Jordan
Today's Teen: Sex, Drugs, Rock n RollCindy Rice
Letting My Light Shine- Lifestyle WitnessingSue Tatum
Using My Gifts to LeadStuart Calvert
My Time: Focused or Frazzled?Deborah Brunt
Rebuilding Your Marriage, A Brick and A SwordHelen Price
Worship and Prayer, a Family AffairEvelyn Vaughn
Relating to my Aged Parents

Plan now to make October 9-10 a priority time in your life! You will want to share this event with your friends, so cut out the registration form at right and recruit them to be a part with you. What a marvelous worship experience, to gather Mississippi women to learn and to praise the Lord together.



**In My Life
In My World
In My Relationships**

WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

Mississippi College, Clinton, MS

October 9-10, 1992



Cynthia Clawson



Jeannette Clift
George



Dellanna O'Brien



Joyce Landorf
Heatherley



Lynne Cheney

NOT JUST ANOTHER MEETING

by Joan Tyler
President,
Mississippi WMU



Why have a "women's conference"? What will be unique about the event that will take place October 9 and 10 at the Mississippi College Coliseum?

As a Christian woman in today's stressful world, I am confronted with conflicts and choices. How can I respond to these as challenges to grow in my ability to make a difference in my life, in my relationships,

and in my world?

I don't know about you, but periodically I have a need to draw aside for a short time in order to re-examine my spiritual progress and to reassess my priorities. I need fresh inspiration from mature Christians who are able to effectively communicate insights gleaned from varied encounters on their spiritual journeys. I need to view my choices from a new perspective, to see them as opportunities to lead me to be an agent of change in my world.

Now Mississippi WMU offers me this experience in an unusual two-day event. I will not miss a minute of it from early-bird conferences Friday afternoon (my only problem is which three to choose?) through the exciting climax on Saturday afternoon.

For years, Joyce Landorf Heatherley has helped me in my Christian walk in very practical ways through numerous books and tapes. Now I am going to meet her and hear her in person. And when I think of The Hiding Place, what an impact was made on my life by both the book and the movie, I can hardly believe I will have the opportunity to see and hear Jeannette Clift George, the actress who made Corrie Ten Boom come alive on the screen! For the first time, I will enjoy live the wonderful musical gift of Cynthia Clawson. And that's only the beginning!

You won't want to miss it, either. Be there as we prepare ourselves to 'LEAD ON' in 1992-1993!

WOMEN'S CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

Return to: Women's Conference
Woman's Missionary Union
P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205

Name of church

Church address

Contact person for group

Phone

Number registering

Amount paid

Please have one contact person send in registration form and check in church group in at the conference. Please send \$20.00 for each person. Deadline for registrations is October 1, 1992. No refunds after this date.

alongside

published by Mississippi WMU

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Consultant
Helen PriceCamp Director
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Cindy CoonEditor

alongside



Letters to the editor



Don't condemn Word

Editor:

Recently, a pastor wrote a letter asking what value the doctrine of election was, and why people insisted on bringing it up when he felt it was divisive and unnecessary for salvation or a victorious Christian life.

The answer is quite simple, really, and perhaps I should start a reply by asking a question of my own. What value should we place on subjects like the Trinity and its purpose, the incarnation of Jesus, the Holy Spirit and his indwelling and sealing, the covenants, Satan, sin and sanctification, Israel in prophecy, the rapture, the second coming, and the new heavens and earth?

Frankly, I don't see the need to condemn God's Word for teaching us about the facts on election (or choosing). Scriptural examples include 2 Thes. 2:13, Romans 9:23, Heb. 11:25, Phil. 1:22, Romans 16:13, and Revelation 17:14.

I agree that there may be those who preach the truth in an unkind spirit, but God or his Word should not be compromised upon or diminished because of this. Reprove (mend) those who do not teach with power as well as gentleness or meekness. But do not limit God's truth by ignoring certain parts of it or doctrines, and go to those ministers privately.

Stephen J. Zachary
Columbus

Planned Parenthood truth

Editor:

The headline article in the June 25 Baptist Record addressed the issue of "population control". This artfully crafted article is filled with deceptions and contains one alarming suggestion: A Christian audience is encouraged to contact representatives and senators and ask them to restore funding to the "family planning" program. Fellow Baptists, that program is Planned Parenthood, the largest abortion providing industry in our country!

The population explosion is a myth and a smoke screen designed to gain favor toward Planned Parenthood's death agenda. Many experts believe the earth could easily support 40 billion people (almost eight times our present population) at current standards of living even if current technology and productivity remain the same. At present, the entire population of the world could be placed in Texas and its population density would still be less than that of many existing cities.

So why all the population propaganda? Planned Parenthood has received tens of millions of tax dollars and wishes to continue to do so. The returns on our investment are shocking. Their pro-

grams: "safe sex" (morality-free) education, birth control and abortion services (no parental consent necessary). Their track record: dramatically increased and accelerating reports of sexually transmitted diseases, rampant promiscuity, abortions, infertility, and STD-infected newborns.

As this group lobbies Congress, perhaps one day they will recommend that we embrace China's policy which Planned Parenthood calls a "model of efficiency." China's one-child-per-family rule has resulted in one hundred million forced abortions, mandatory sterilizations, and coercive infanticides.

I urge Christians to read George Grant's award-winning expose, *Grand Illusion: The Legacy of Planned Parenthood*. Learn how the founder of PP, Margaret Sanger, was a Eugenicist who wanted to eliminate "inferior races," defective people, and fundamentalist Christians. It is astonishing what her organization has accomplished for evil in such a short span of history.

Genesis tells us that man has been given dominion over the earth, so certainly we must use its resources wisely. But who are we to tell a poor child that he should never have been born? Is this Christ's example? As outlined in Matthew 25:31-46, we must feed, clothe, and shelter the needy. Eliminating the needy is never an option. We must not be duped into supporting Planned Parenthood's Orwellian linguistic lie. "Family planning" is really "family banning."

Karen Blakeney
Gulfport

News from Ankara

Editor:

The International Protestant Church has grown to a membership of over 200 members and we had to have more space or form another congregation or lose growth potential. We opted to start another congregation, which we did on June 21. We are now the Ankara Baptist Church International. We now have three churches that have been organized since August 1990. Continue to hold us up in prayer.

We have another pressing need for the people of the city of Erzin-can, Turkey, which was devastated by an earthquake March 13, 1992. The same organization that helped with the Iraqi refugees tragedy, Global Partners, is trying to organize volunteer teams to rebuild parts of that city. The person heading that up has run into difficulty getting a response from anyone willing to help. The project is to begin in August and we have no volunteers. I am faxing you their plea for help called, "Help a Turk Build a New Foundation." To get this thing started, we need a team of five who are skilled in reinforced concrete con-

struction with concrete blocks. I do not know if there is anything Mississippi folks can do, but usually when they know of a real need, they meet it! It is my understanding that everything will be provided for the team after they arrive in Turkey. The expense part is the round-trip ticket to Ankara, which usually costs about \$2,200 per person.

I have really enjoyed the Baptist Record. We hope to be home on furlough in November 1993.

Alvis K. Cooper
PSC 89 Box 709
APO AE 09822
Telephone/FAX 011-90-4-286-5995

Call for action

Editor:

Never before have I ever seen or heard of anything quite like the action taken to close Clarke College. I feel the decision to close this unique institution was unethical, and in every way violates the spirit of trust that prevails among Mississippi Baptists. I believe Clarke College has the right to exist as our other fine institutions. I believe Clarke College should be reopened as a separate college and that Mississippi Baptists feel the same and will express themselves accordingly at the 1992 Mississippi Baptist Convention this November.

I call for immediate action from our executive director, the Convention Board, the executive committee, and the education committee to:

1. Re-establish Clarke College as an institution.
2. Elect a board of trustees or appoint an interim board of trustees.
3. Appropriate emergency funds for the operation of the administrative offices, facility, and staff salaries.
4. Return the endowment to the college.
5. Return all records to the Newton campus.
6. Release the list of alumni to Clarke Alumni Association.
7. Take disciplinary action against those responsible for the unconscionable act.

These proposals would give Mississippi Baptists the opportunity to make the decision concerning the future of the college. This would give Clarke officials and alumni time to determine the level of support and the date for the reopening of the college.

I supported the merger in every way possible, but only because I, along with other Clarke supporters, were led to believe the merger would guarantee that the school would remain open. I now believe the whole "merger affair" was a well-planned effort to close Clarke College.

Nelson J. Crozier
Laurel

Disturbed by letter

Editor:

I was disturbed by a letter that was published in the June 25 Baptist Record. This letter was titled, "Doctrine of 'election' damaging."

Since the doctrine of election is a part of God's Word, then it must be for the purpose of revealing something of himself to us that it was included in his Word. The fact that we may not understand it does not make it any less his Word.

Paul, in addressing the Ephesian elders in Acts 20:27, says, "For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God." Paul did not consider one part of God's Word of greater or lesser importance than another, but shared all of it. Certainly no doctrine should be taught to the exclusion of others, but neither can one be designated as more important than another by men.

This letter ends with a most disturbing conclusion that the "doctrine of election has proven to be one of the most damaging, church-splitting doctrines that preceded 'tongue-talking.'" God's Word is not the source of problems in the local or denominational church; the sinners in the church are. Some of those sinners are saved by grace, others remain lost, and these are the root of problems in the church family, not God's Word.

Glynn Kegley
Florence

Takes exception

Editor:

I take grave exception with the

statements made in the June 25 edition of the Baptist Record concerning the doctrine of election. The questions Mr. Benton raised were the age-old arguments against the doctrine of God's sovereign grace. Briefly, allow me to answer these questions.

First, those who hold the doctrine of election do not "push" it on any one any more than someone who holds the doctrine of eternal security pushes it on others. One cannot make blanket accusations of intolerance toward those who disagree with our position. Granted, some electionists are arrogant and pushy, but not all. Calvinists merely wish to ascribe all the glory for salvation to its author, Jehovah God. If a Calvinist seems "pushy" it may be simple zeal for what that individual believes to be the truth that lifts God to his rightful position as the only being worthy of glory and honor. Calvinism is not an elitist doctrine which produces pride, but rather a doctrine whose fruit is true humility.

Overall, the hostility towards this Bible doctrine is rooted in man's wish to have something to do with his salvation. Historically, the doctrine of election has not split churches but rather strengthened missionary zeal, local evangelism, and discipleship. The reason this doctrine is so controversial stems from the fact that most preachers are feeding from the bottle themselves and cannot lead their people to intelligently, rationally, and biblically examine the meat of God's revealed truth.

Keith Powell, pastor
Hebron Church
Grenada



Mississippians go to Moscow

Eight Mississippians — seven Baptist college students and one Baptist Student Union director — traveled to Moscow in late June to assist in the construction of a headquarters building for Russian Baptists. The project, which is part of an ongoing effort to assist Russian Baptists, has been coordinated through the Foreign Mission Board.

The students planned to assist in masonry work and general construction. They are one of four teams nationally who will be working on the project during the summer.

Expenses for the project were provided by the State Student Missions Fund, support from local churches and individuals, and money raised personally by participating students.

Pictured, from left, are Kevin Gardner, Jones; Robby Burns, Northeast; Kevin Hardwell, Holmes; Teena Overland, Jones; Brad Rigby, Mississippi State; Thomas Edwards, East Central; and Tim Glaze, BSU director at East Central. Not pictured is Kelly Breland, a student at Mississippi College.

Thursday, July 16, 1992



Volunteers help build in Indiana

Members of eight churches formed the Mississippi half of a combined Mississippi-Illinois team to assist a new congregation in Indiana with its first building. The team was organized through the Jimmy Knight Evangelistic Association based in Laurel. The Mississippi half of the team included 11 members of Bethlehem Church, Laurel, nine members of various Wayne County churches, and one member from Starkville. Wayne County churches represented included Mount Zion, Riverside, First Church in Waynesboro, West Shady Grove, First in Clara, and Trinity. This year the project assignment was secured with the help of Jim Didlake of the Brotherhood Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Members of the team from Mississippi included: Stella Waltmon, Starkville; Lynn Mackey, director of missions, Wayne County Association, and Norma Mackey of First Church, Waynesboro; Charles Abbey, pastor, and Ronald Moody, Mount Zion Church, Wayne County; Robert Robinson, pastor, West Shady Grove Church, Wayne County; Ruth Richey and Mary Reaux of Riverside Church, Waynesboro; Lorie Busby, Trinity Church, Wayne County; and Vivian Taylor of First Church, Clara. Those from Bethlehem Church, Laurel, were Knight, who serves as staff evangelist, and his wife, Alane; Valton Douglas, pastor, and his wife, Frances, and daughter, Susie; Bob and Mildred Davidson; Larry West; Marlene Hancock; Deanna Blackledge; and Joey Manning.

Small churches must want to grow, HMB speaker says

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP) — Small churches seeking to break the 100-member barrier must create a climate for growth, a Home Mission Board church growth specialist said.

Such churches often plateau because they are unwilling to pay the price for further growth, Charles Chaney, Home Mission Board vice president for extension, said during a home missions conference at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Conference Center.

"We have churches today that are structured in a way that virtually makes growth impossible," he said. "It's important pastors understand that part of their role is to be change agents."

Churches, however, must be willing to accept change, Chaney said, adding change can be disturbing and can draw resistance.

Among changes necessary for

growth, Chaney said, is a willingness to open opportunities for leadership and fellowship that have traditionally been dominated by long-time members.

Members also must be willing to be ministers instead of just expecting the preacher to meet all congregational needs, he said.

"We spend a lot of time at seminars training people to do what laypeople need to do anyway," he said. "When the congregation is the minister, the growth potential grows."

Chaney said small churches must be affirmed because they often are more effective at evangelism and leadership training than larger churches.

Congregations of less than 50 people also have one of the highest rankings in per capita tithes and offerings, he added.

day School Board will share the costs of volunteer training, travel, photocopying, and other related expenses, while participating churches will be responsible only for volunteer meals and possible lodging expenses, when necessary," Tompkins explained.

Volunteers and churches wishing to obtain more information on the project can contact the MBCB Sunday School Department at (601) 968-3800, ext. 3896.

BREAKTHROUGH

From page 3

he numbers," Tompkins pointed out.

There are no minimum requirements for churches wishing to participate, he added, and churches need not have incurred declines in order to be a part of the project.

"Expenses have been kept to a minimum. The MBCB Sunday School Department and SBC Sun-

Homecomings

Satartia (Yazoo): July 19; 11 a.m.; noon meal in fellowship hall; afternoon singing; no night services; Victor Johnson, Florence, former pastor, guest speaker; Harry Cole, pastor.

Mt Olivet, Forest: July 19; 11 a.m.; picnic lunch; John Sharp, director of missions, Scott and Newton associations, guest speaker; Travis Polk, pastor.

Committee begins search for new DOM

Leon Young, director of missions for Lauderdale Association, has retired. A search committee has been established and begun work.

Resumes should be sent to Diane White, secretary, Lauderdale County Baptist Association, Director of Missions Search Committee, Route 2, Box 134, Meridian, MS 39305.

Vacation Bible Schools

Carmel, Monticello: July 20-24; 8:30-11:30 a.m., ages 11 and under; 6:30-9 p.m., youths; call 587-7145, 587-2672 for information or transportation.

VBS Results

Poplar Springs, Fulton (Itawamba): June 15-19; four professions of faith; Terry Paul Graham, pastor.

Revival dates

Friendship, Ellisville: July 22-24; 7 p.m. nightly; Bill Riley, Stringer, evangelist; Paula Beech, Ellisville, music; Keith Swartz, pastor.

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Christian health program promotes total fitness

By Linda Lawson

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP) — Life-long lifestyle change — not short-term quick fixes — result in losing weight and keeping the pounds off, according to two leaders of a Christian health program.

"It has taken me since 1981 to change a lot of my attitudes about food," said Carole Lewis, national director of "First Place: A Christ-Centered Health Program" begun 11 years ago by First Church of Houston. Today, more than 1,000 churches in 35 states are using the program.

Lewis and Kay Smith, a First Place group leader from Roscoe, Texas, introduced the program July 4-10 during the Discipleship Training Leadership Conference at Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center. Materials for leading First Place support groups in churches are being released this summer in a cooperative venture between First Church, Houston, and the Baptist Sunday School Board.

Lewis described First Place as a spiritually based education program to teach participants to eat right, exercise and get enough rest.

"I am convinced that in God's Word is everything we need for health," said Lewis, who enrolled in the first group conducted by the church. Her goal was to lose 20 pounds, pounds she had lost and gained numerous times in previous attempts.

First Place participants enroll in 13-week group sessions that

include weigh-ins, food facts, Scripture memorization, Bible study, and prayer. Using a food exchange program, optimum weight loss is one and one-half to two pounds per week. People are encouraged to stay in the program at least one quarter after they reach their goal.

The First Place diet is low in fat and high in protein. Members are encouraged to eat fresh meat, fruit, and vegetables rather than highly processed foods.

The average American consumes 140 pounds of sugar per year, Smith said. For example, a non-diet soft drink will have 12-14 teaspoons of sugar, one piece of chocolate cake will have at least 12 teaspoons of sugar and one piece of angel food cake has more than seven.

While First Place began primarily as a weight-loss program, many current participants do not need to lose weight but to maintain a healthy diet due to diabetes, hypoglycemia or high cholesterol.

The new First Place materials, part of the new LifeWay line of support group resources, include four 13-week Bible studies — Giving God First Place, Life That Wins, Life Under Control, and Everyday Victory for Everyday People.

A leader's guide, member's notebook, cookbook, and a videotape also are available from the board.

Lawson writes for BSSB.

A Senior Adult

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First Baptist Church, Vicksburg

Dr. Ralph Langley, preaching

Russell Newport, singing

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METHODIST MEDICAL CENTER 376-1370

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST MEDICAL CENTER 968-4140

Staff changes

Oak Grove Church, Smithdale, has called Mike Alexander as pastor effective June 14. A native of Waltham County, he received his education at New Orleans Seminary. He is a vocational evangelist and will continue to work in evangelism.

Trace Ridge Church, Ridge-land, has called Rick Hammarstrom as associate pastor effective May 10. A native of Meadville, he received his education at Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary. His previous places of service was Rehobeth Church, Pelahatchie, and Glade Church, Laurel. Hammarstrom works in administration and teaches at Madison Ridgeland Academy.

Osyka Church (Pike) has called Jay Alvero as minister of youth effective June 14. A native of Ponchatoula, La., he received his education at Southeastern Louisiana University, Hammond, La., and plans to enter New Orleans Seminary.

Tim Parker, pastor of Old Pearl Valley Church, Philadelphia, for four years, has resigned

effective June 28. He is a Clarke College graduate, and will graduate from Mississippi College in December. He is available for full or part-time positions, as well as pulpit supply. Parker can be reached at 140 Green Forest Drive, Clinton, MS 39056 or 922-3250.

Antioch Church, Rankin Association, has called Marion Cox Spence, as pastor effective June 21. A native of Crowville, La., he received his education at Florida Baptist College, Graceville, Fla. His previous place of service was Alford Church, Alford, Fla.



Spence

Al Spring has been called as pastor of Chapel Hill Church in Hinds-Madison Association. He was recently ordained by Utica Church, John Ed Snell is pastor.

Mark Dearman is now serving as pastor of Roxie Church, Franklin. His previous place of

service was Salem Church, Lake. He is a graduate of New Orleans Seminary.

Van Winkle Church, Jackson, has called Mike Burczynski as pastor. His previous place of service was serving on the home mission field at Trinity Church, Moscow, Idaho. Prior to serving in Idaho, he served at Tate Street Church, Corinth; Longview Church, Pontotoc; and Flat Rock Church in Benton County. He is a graduate of Blue Mountain College and Southern Seminary.



Burczynski

Taylor Church, Lafayette Association, has called Paul Huston Russell as pastor. He recently graduated from Mid-America Seminary and has been an intern in church growth ministry and in single adult ministry at Bellevue Church, Memphis. Formerly, a computer programmer, Russell was interim pastor in Kenai, Alaska.



Russell

Randy Davis, pastor at First Church, VanCleave, has resigned and will become pastor of First Church, Morristown, Tenn. The church has grown significantly during his ministry. He has also served on the Foreign Mission Board for the past three years.

Holcomb Church, Holcomb, has called Randall Ashley as pastor effective June 28. A native of Memphis, Tenn., he is a graduate of Crichton College and Mid-America Seminary. His previous place of service was Tillatoba Church, Tillatoba.

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Thursday, July 16, 1992

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 3

Revival dates

Enon Church, Batesville: July 19-23; Charles Lipe, Clear Creek Church, Oxford, evangelist; Maurice Ellis, Enon Church, music; services, 10:30 a.m. and 8 p.m.; G. E. Jolley, pastor.

Puckett Church (Rankin): July 19-22; Kermit McGregor, First Church, Mendenhall, evangelist; Wayne Baggett, First Church, Quitman, music; Barry Ward, pastor.

Calvary Church, Bogue Chitto: July 19-23; Mack Amis, Central Church, Brookhaven, evangelist; Nell Adams, Ephesus Church (Neshoba) music; Sunday services, Sunday School, 10 a.m., message, 11 a.m., and lunch; Mon.-Thurs., 7 p.m.; Emon White, pastor.

Clear Branch Church (Rankin): July 19-24; Grady Crowell, director of missions, Clarke Association, evangelist; Chuck Pittman, First Church, Terry, music; Sunday, 11 a.m., lunch, and afternoon service; 7 p.m. nightly; Tim McCaffery, pastor.

Sturgis Church (Oktibbeha): July 19-23; Danny Lanier, Little Rock, evangelist; Ira Pollard, Starkville, music; 7 p.m. nightly; Steve Lammons, pastor.

Willow Grove Church, Collins: July 19-24; O. Lynn Nations, First Church, Mize, evangelist; Larry Raines, Nassau Bay Church, Houston; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7:30 p.m.; Billy Purser, pastor.

Spring Hill Church (Copiah): July 19-22; Harry Barnes, pastor, Spring Hill Church, evangelist; Bill Clark, Wynndale Church, music; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.

New Providence Church, Derma: July 19-24; Chaplain A. M. Moore III, Marks, evangelist; Janet Ramage, music director; Lori Ramage, pianist; Sunday, fellowship supper, 6 p.m.; 7:30 nightly; J. T. Busby, pastor.

Providence Church, Jayess: July 19-24; Sunday, homecoming, Sunday School, 9:45 a.m., worship, 10:45 a.m.; Wiley Reid, pastor, Friendship Church, Brookhaven, evangelist; dinner served in fellowship hall; gospel music by the Victory Singers in afternoon service; revival, Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m., Wiley Reid, evangelist; Sherrod Rayborn,

Bethel Church, Monticello, music; Sally Presnell, Jayess Church, pianist; Mike Boyd, interim pastor.

Rock Hill Church (Covington): July 19-24; Sunday, homecoming, 11 a.m.; dinner after services; 1:30 p.m. service; Thomas Balch, speaker; revival, Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Bill Cockerham, Oakwood, Ga., guest speaker; Ed Phillips, music; Zack Winningham, pastor.

Thorn Hill Church (Rankin): July 19-24; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; preaching, 11 a.m.; dinner on grounds; gospel singing featuring the Revelations, 1:30 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Marcus Alexander, First Church, Braxton, evangelist; Rudy James, pastor.

Fellowship Church (Choctaw): July 24-29; Gene Dobbs, administrative assistant for ministry, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, Jackson, evangelist; Doyle Smith, Ardmore, Okla., music; services Fri. and Sat., 7 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6:45 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Frank R. Trotter, pastor.

Montevista Church (Webster): July 19-24; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; 7:30 nightly; James Travis, chairman of the Division of Biblical Studies, Blue Mountain College, evangelist; Arlie Holloway, Arbo Grove Church, music; Keith Dendy, pastor.

First Church, Gautier: July 19-22; Sunday, 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m., noon and 7 p.m. daily; Rodney Gage, evangelist; Michelle Gage, music; nursery provided; Billy R. Williams, pastor.

Shady Grove First Church, Heidelberg: July 19-22; Sunday homecoming, 11 a.m.; dinner on the ground; no evening service; 7 p.m. nightly; Joe House, Lanette, Ala. evangelist; Jelly Welborn, Sharon music; Sharber Smith, pastor.

Mission Hill, Wesson: July 19-24; Sunday, homecoming, 11 a.m. covered dish lunch, afternoon worship, 1 p.m.; 7 p.m. nightly; V. Windom, evangelist; Tom Purvis, pastor.

Antioch (Jasper): July 19-24; Sunday, 11 a.m., 1:30 p.m.; 7:30 p.m. nightly; Mack Harrison, evangelist; Wiley Phillips, music; Carey B. pastor.

Strong Hope, Wesson, cited for media library

Strong Hope Church, Wesson, has been cited as one of five smaller membership Southern Baptist churches nationwide for excellence in church media library administration.

The Baptist Sunday School Board's Church Media Library Department noted that the media library of Strong Hope Church has grown from a storage room in a poor location to an organized

resource center through promotional displays around the church building and in regular features in the church newsletter.

The media library staff, led by Joan Beasley, takes materials to the homes of elderly persons and provides media for a grief ministry and resources for children's church. Strong Hope Church averages 120 persons in Sunday School attendance. Lowell Ingram is pastor.

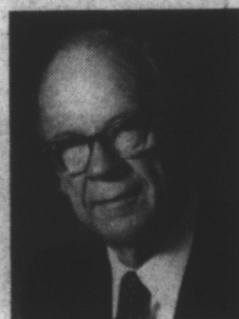
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Just for the Record



GAs at First Church, Columbia, celebrated after their recent recognition service. Pictured left to right, they are: seated, Molly McCarthy, Leigh Anne Harvey, Ashley Thompson, Nicole Crawley, Sarah Pittman, Amelia Magee, Abby Watts; middle row, Natalie Temple, Jamie Fast, Jennifer Moorman, Jacquelyn Gray, Elizabeth

Adams, Myra Williamson, Christina Bird, Emily Blount, Sarah Burkett, Whitney Wallace, Breann Fortenberry; Back row, Jenny Ford, Karen Swann, Caty Bird, Heather Dagle, Celia Pittman, Karen Howell, Lee Stringer, and Wendi Davis. Leaders are Jenny Wallace, Diana Gray, and Kaye Williamson.



GAs of Colonial Heights Church, Jackson, are pictured above. They were recently recognized for their achievements in missions adventures.



Immanuel Church, Natchez, recently held its "Golden Anniversary Revival," celebrating 50 years to the week that Donald Bennett, then a student at Clarke College, felt "burdened for Natchez." Immanuel was constituted two years later. Bennett is now part-time staff member in outreach in South Carolina. Pictured from left are Dee DeBold, pastor; Don Bennett, evangelist for the revival; Butch Hosea, minister of music; and Ed Pickle, music director for the revival.

Friendship Church, Aberdeen, will conduct a youth rally July 31, 7:30 p.m. The rally will feature the 75-voice youth choir from First Church, Woodstock, Ga. The choir will sing, perform skits, and give personal testimonies. For more information, contact Todd Golden, youth minister, (601) 369-4581. Todd Bowen is pastor.

Senior Adult Choir Festivals were held recently at First Church, Brandon, and Temple Church, Hattiesburg. Twenty-seven choirs sang for adjudication. John Hanbery served as coordinator for the events.

Estus Mason, pastor of First Church, Crystal Springs from 1954 until his retirement in 1978, will be honored by the church on his 80th birthday. A reception is planned in the fellowship hall of First, Crystal Springs, July 19, 2-4 p.m.

Music evangelist B. J. Jenkins will be in concert at Castlewoods Church, Castlewood subdivision, Brandon, July 19 at 6 p.m. She is a member of Colonial Heights, Jackson. For more information, call Larry McDonald, 992-9977.

Olyn Roberts retired July 1 after 41 years as pastor, pioneer missionary, and director of missions in Mississippi, Alabama, and Alaska. Since 1986, he has led construction mission teams to Alaska. He will be available July 17 for supply and interim work. Address: Route 1, Box 156-A, Louisville, MS 39339; phone (601) 773-5670.



Names in the news

Mr. and Mrs. Dale Holloway will be honored for 12 years of service as pastor at Day Star Church, Florence with a reception, July 19, 3-5 p.m. in fellowship hall.



Peoples

Amanda Peoples of Navilla Church, McComb, completed ten years of perfect attendance in Sunday School. Dwayne Brown is director of the Sunday School.

Joy C. Hilbun has been named a representative of Cooperative Services International, a Southern Baptist aid organization.



Hilbun

Hilbun will live in East Asia, where she will use her skills in education. She received the master of social work degree from University of Southern Mississippi and master of religious education degree from New Orleans Seminary. Her father, Joel P. Hilbun of Baton Rouge, La. previously served churches in Mississippi.

Jim Turcotte, son of Ernest and Eleanor Turcotte of Clinton and grandson of Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Johnson of Vicksburg, was elected vice president for university advancement by the trustees of Dallas Baptist University, Dallas, Texas. He served DBU as director of admissions since 1990. Turcotte graduated from Mississippi College and Southwestern Seminary. He is married to the former Jenny Turner, daughter of Jack and Libby Turner of Columbia.



Turcotte

Lillie Mae Daniels was recently honored with an Appreciation Day at Lake Washington First Church. She was presented a silver tray by her pastor, Owen Riddick. Three of her four children, some of her grandchildren and her great-granddaughter attended. Mrs. Daniels became a member of Greenfield Church in 1943. In 1957, Greenfield Church and Glen Allan Church merged to become Lake Washington First Church, so she has been a member for 49 years. She taught Sunday School for most of these years and has been custodian since 1965.

David Irby, emeritus professor of religion, retired June 1 after 27 years of service at Union University, Jackson, Tenn. He has served as pastor or interim pastor of numerous churches in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Tennessee. Irby and his wife, Marilyn, will reside at 309 White Harbor Road, Long Beach, MS 39560.

Evangelist John Merck has completed 10 years in evangelism and has 60 preacher boys in seven states to come forth in this ministry. Merck has held 620 revival meetings in 16 states, preached over 5,000 sermons and over 5,000 have been saved. He and his wife, Ruth, have been married 40 years. "This is an important year for me," says Merck.



First Church, Raleigh, recently recognized and presented Certificates of Appreciation to four ladies who have taught Sunday School for over 25 years. Pictured, left to right, are Mickey Ferguson, pastor; Freddie Ballard, 29 years; Elizabeth Hegwood, 50 years; Carolyn Robinson Stuart, 20 years; Rachel Johnson, 52 years; and Prentice Stuart, Sunday School director.

Uniform Restoring a remnant



By Margaret H. Rogers
Zephaniah 3:1-20

The study of the minor prophets concludes with the third chapter of Zephaniah. The prophets were powerful leaders in Old Testament history because they were men with a message from God. There are three Hebrew words translated "prophet." Two of them mean "to see" and convey the idea of a man of vision; thus the prophet was called a "seer." This implied that he was able to obtain knowledge of spiritual realities not available to others. The third word is used more frequently and means "to announce" and represents the prophet as a "speaker." Various other terms were applied to these as "watchman," "interpreter," "servant of Jehovah," etc. There are few fields of Bible study which have been so widely misunderstood and generally misinterpreted as that of fulfillment of prophecy. One needs to exercise caution in interpreting the prophets.

The prior study of Zephaniah revealed that the prophet was warning Judah that she was ripe for judgment. He also promised punishment for specific sins such as idolatry, syncretism (modern New Age movement), and godlessness. He identified one possibility of escaping Yahweh's wrath which was for the nation to return to him. Zephaniah's main theme was the coming "day of the Lord," a day of judgment when God would punish the nation severely. Zephaniah wrote in poetic form, though his poetry does not rank with the most beautiful and effective poetry in the Old Testament. His most prevalent meter was the *kinah*, the dirge rhythm. This meter was particularly suited for conveying the woeful certitude of chastisement and judgment in this book.

A bright picture for the future (v. 12). This portion of scripture begins with the prophet referring to the time after judgment. The haughty will be no more, for the humble will be maintained as the faithful remnant. With these words the prophet moved from the dark clouds of judgment to a brighter day.

The ultimate fulfillment (vv. 14-20). This passage contrasts sharply with the judgmental tone of the previous verses. Jerusalem soon will assume her rightful place among the nations and she is not to fear evil any more because Yahweh is in her midst.

In verse 17, Zephaniah speaks of the renewal of love for Judah. This word is not the *chesed* that referred to the covenant relationship. Instead it is from the verb *ahab*, another Hebrew word for love. This understanding of love is not preconditioned by covenant relationship; rather, it is unconditional. The Jews, scattered abroad, would be gathered once again to Jerusalem. Finally on that day the promise to Abraham would find its ultimate fulfillment. Zephaniah pictured the remnant as happy and secure, and his prophecy was fulfilled. The day of the Lord came; the remnant survived, a folk humble and poor. To them came a new song from God, perhaps nearly 100 years after Zephaniah spoke.

The words of Zephaniah serve as a reminder today of God's justice and mercy. He presents a clear picture of how God judges sin and of how he restores his people when they repent and return to him. Judah's experience reveals the promise of God's presence, power, and his desire for the happiness of those who are faithful to him.

The writer of 2 Chronicles 7:14 echoes these same truths: "If my people who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land." Certainly the piercing words of Zephaniah, almost 2,600 years old, have relevance in the modern world. Every generation can benefit from the direction that God gave through this prophet.

Rogers is a member of Salem Church, Collins.

Bible Book Elisha and the Syrians



By David Raddin
2 Kings 6:14-19; 7:1, 6-7, 16

In the midst of a situation that seemed hopeless, Elisha had confidence in God. God intervened on behalf of his people and brought the victory.

Life still brings hopeless situations. We can have confidence in God just as Elisha did. The prophet's experience with the Syrians reminds us of our need to turn to God.

Elisha's capture of Syrian raiding party (6:14-19). The king of Syria was at war with Israel. Elisha revealed Syria's plans to the king of Israel even as the plans were made. Benhadad, king of Syria, was enraged and knew he must capture Elisha if military success was to be his. He learned that Elisha was at Dothan, six miles north of Samaria, and sent an army by night.

Elisha's servant saw the next morning that the Syrian force had surrounded the city. He came to the prophet fearful and questioning what they would do. Elisha told him not to be afraid, for those who were with them were more than those with the Syrians.

Elisha prayed that the Lord would let his servant see. The Lord let him see the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha. As the enemy approached, Elisha prayed for the Lord to strike them blind. The Lord granted Elisha's request.

Elisha led the Syrian army into the city of Samaria and the Lord answered Elisha as he prayed for their eyes to be opened. The king of Israel asked Elisha if he should kill the captured Syrians. Elisha instructed that they not be killed but given food and drink and returned to their king, Benhadad. So the king of Israel prepared a feast for them, and sent them back to their leader.

All of us face hopeless times. Elisha reminds us through his actions that we can take our hopelessness to God whose power is greater than anything life brings. The confidence that Elisha expressed in the Lord shows us that we can trust God even when we feel afraid and defeated.

Deliverance of Samaria from Syrian siege (7:1, 6-7, 16). Benhadad went on to try to conquer Samaria, and besieged the city for three years. The inhabitants suffered greatly. The king of Israel was so angry that Elisha had released the Syrian army when he had them captured that he wanted to kill the prophet.

Elisha predicted an immediate end to the siege. The siege had become so bad that a donkey's head sold for 80 shekels (6:25). Elisha promised that the next day a seah, or about seven quarts, of flour would sell for a shekel. The prophet told an unbelieving soldier that he would see it with his own eyes.

The next day, the Lord caused the Syrians to hear the sound of horses and chariots and a great army. Thinking the sound was of Egyptians and Hittites hired by the king of Israel, the Syrians fled. Two lepers discovered the abandoned camp, and spread the news to the army of Israel. News that the Syrians were gone came back from the messengers sent by the king of Israel to investigate the lepers' report. The people went out, plundered the Syrian camp, and a seah of flour sold for a shekel.

God's power was claimed by Elisha and is available today. How often we try everything else before we turn to the Lord. As the people of Israel in the siege, God is with us even in the most difficult times. The victory that God brought in the Syrian wars gives us hope for victory over the wars that we fight within our own lives.

Raddin is pastor, First Church, Summit.

Life and Work Affirming others' value



By Milton Burd
1 Samuel 30:8-10, 21-25

The World Series of baseball is a national event each fall. Million-dollar players perform heroics on the field to win the series but, when the winners' share is divided, it is divided equally among players, coaches, managers, trainers, and equipment men. The team realizes the value of every person and his contributions throughout the year. David encountered a problem with some of his soldiers when they challenged the value of the soldiers who remained behind. This is the focus of our lesson for this week.

David's pursuit of the Amalekites (30: 8-10). David asked God for guidance in pursuing the Amalekites. God said, "Go!" David obeyed and led 600 men in the chase; however, when they arrived some 15 miles later at the Besor Ravine, 200 men were too exhausted to continue. Before the chase had begun, David's men had already traveled a long distance returning to Ziklag, and were weary and distressed about the loss of their families. So these 200 were left behind to care for the baggage and equipment.

Attitude of David's soldiers towards those who remained behind (30:21-22). After being successful in battle and rescuing the women, children, animals, and goods (nothing was lost), David and his men returned to the 200 soldiers at Besor Ravine. They came out to meet David, and after the greeting and reuniting of family members, some of the 400 who went to battle (Troublemaker v. 22) began to complain that those who did not engage in battle did not deserve a share of the plunder, that all they deserved was the return of their wives and children. They saw no value in the contributions of the 200. Their argument was that they did the fighting and deserved the plunder.

Sometimes we think that only the high profile church members are accomplishing the work of the Lord. We often overlook those who serve quietly; those who pray, those who work in the preschool area, and on and on. Everyone who serves and contributes is important in the service of God. It takes the efforts of all to accomplish the tasks.

Acknowledging God as the source of all blessings (30:23). David responded by saying no to the objectors. He reminded them that it was God who made the victory possible. He told them, "You are no more responsible for the victory than the 200 who remained behind. What we have received is from God. He is the source of all blessings." David intended to be fair in establishing a policy for the distribution of the spoils of battle. David realized the leadership of God in this event, and his action of fairness and generosity reflected his gratitude to God. God is the source of all blessings today. We cannot be self-reliant or self-sufficient. Everything comes from God.

Establishing the value of all God's people (30:24-25). David established an equal share for the men who remained with the supplies and the men who went to battle. The troublemakers were a minority with no support. The soldiers responded to David's leadership. David valued every man's contribution and rewarded them equally. He recognized their worth not only as soldiers but as persons. This distribution decision was to become the custom in Israel. Although it may have been practiced before his time, David made it a legally binding principle.

We should be willing not only to value the contributions of all Christian servants, but we should affirm the people who make these contributions of service. David affirmed his men by sharing equally the spoils of battle. Think of some ways that you can affirm those members of your church who rarely receive affirmation. Thank them for being valued members in God's army.

Burd is minister of education, First Church, Cleveland.





Yazoo City GAs recognized

Mother's Day 1992 was climaxed with a recognition service for several GAs and RAs at First Church, Yazoo City. At the evening worship service on May 10, the boys and girls in these two missionary organizations received their end-of-the-year badges and certificates.

Pictured are some of the girls who participated in the Girls in Action program during 1991-92, front row (left to right) Morgan McLeod, Tyshaun Butterfield; second row, Brandi Brewer, Maggie Simmons, Laura Harris, Emily Street; third row, Ann Harris, Ivy Sanford, Michelle Roark; back row, Jennifer Middleton, Crissie Cook, and Helen Harris. Prior to the evening service, the GAs and their mothers had a time of refreshments and fellowship. Mrs. Beth Harris is GA director at First Church. Clifton Perkins is serving as interim pastor.

Five traits typify growing churches, Hemphill says

By Sarah Zimmerman

LAS VEGAS (BP) — Five traits are common of all growing churches, though churches may vary greatly in environments and styles, Ken Hemphill said during a school of evangelism and church growth.

Hemphill, pastor of First Church, Norfolk, Va., will become church growth specialist for the Home Mission Board and Sunday School Board Aug. 1.

The first trait common to growing churches, he said, is strong leadership. He said pastors of growing churches trust God to give them the ability to lead.

The pastor's leadership is not an issue of authority but function, Hemphill said. A pastor's leadership depends on the trust he has with church members, he noted.

Growing churches also have a generous spirit. He said this includes joyous, spontaneous, sac-

rificial financial giving as well as willingness to give up the best parking spaces for visitors and willingness for Sunday School classes to relocate to accommodate others.

Spiritual sensitivity is another characteristic of growing churches. Hemphill said he attributes the growth First Church of Norfolk has experienced since he became pastor to the prayer ministry the church had in place before he came.

Fourth, growing churches have a great vision. They are willing to take risks as the vision from God ignites the congregation.

The final key to growing churches is a passion for souls, Hemphill said. They do not wait for people to visit their services. Instead, they pursue non-Christians in their community to share their faith.

Zimmerman writes for HMB.

Volunteers in remote India treat 3,000 in Himalayas

By Jim Burton

LEH, India (BP) — An 18-member Southern Baptist volunteer medical team saw 3,064 patients in northern India, one of the world's most remote areas.

The team visited 12 villages in the Ladakh region of India's Himalayan Mountains. Populated at altitudes of 9,000-12,000 feet with surrounding mountains reaching 23,000 feet, Ladakh is only accessible during the summer months due to heavy snowfall.

"This team has been to one of the 'uttermost parts of the earth,'" said team leader Eddie Pettit, Baptist Young Men's director for the Brotherhood Commission in Memphis, Tenn.

There are only 130 Christians in Ladakh, a predominantly Shiite Muslim region with approximately 134,000 people. The purpose of the Ladakh Medical Project was to get a feeling for the people, build a rapport with the citizens and officials and to evaluate future projects, said officials with Cooperative Services International, a humanitarian organization

sponsoring the project.

The Brotherhood Commission and the Baptist Medical-Dental Fellowship recruited the team of six physicians, two dentists, four nurses, and six support personnel from the United States to work with Indian medical professionals.

The Ladakh Medical Project team represented one of Southern Baptists' most experienced volunteer medical teams. Team members have participated in more than 150 overseas projects, Pettit said.

"I'm a firm believer that medical trips like this do some good medically," said William Bowen of Athens, Ga., who was on his third trip to India. "But more than that, it leaves such a good impression on people."

"It gets the point across that we are Christians," added Bowen, who also is president of the Georgia Baptist Medical-Dental Fellowship.

The team conducted basic physical exams and dispensed medicines as they surveyed the medical needs in Ladakh. According

to the region's chief medical officer, Girdhari Lal Raina, health problems in Ladakh begin with malnutrition.

A short growing season creates a deficiency of fresh vegetables, Raina said. Agricultural assistance is needed to develop greenhouse applications for the stone-and-mud Ladakhi homes.

"The Ladakh Medical Project proves once again how lay skills can open doors of service for Southern Baptists," said Douglas Beggs, Brotherhood Commission vice president for program services. "We look forward to continuing the work in Ladakh begun by this team."

Most team members expressed a desire to return to Ladakh.

"Beneath the layers of dust, the eyes of pain and the fluids of infection are hurting spirits and children of God that he created," said Jim Brown, 21, a senior at Mississippi State University in Starkville. "There is much more to be done here."

Burton writes for Brotherhood Commission.

Emergency beacons...

God waits for us to fulfill the task

By Larry Otis

The modern day computers, electronics and star wars weapons have fascinated many of us, especially after the recent Desert Storm campaign. The cruise missiles that were programmed and launched from over 500 miles away at sea, traveled just above the surface of the earth, even down streets of Baghdad, to their specific target location.

The use of satellites that allows an individual soldier, a ship, plane, or rocket to know exactly where it is to within 10' anywhere on the face of the earth is thrilling. Even the recreational sailor can now place on his sail or power boat this same technology, called Global Positioning System. Originally developed by the Defense Department, it is now being used by the average citizen to know his exact location.

Another device is called an EPIRB (emergency position indicating radio beacon) that allows rescue to anyone in danger of sinking at sea or on a downed aircraft. These EPIRBs are so small that they can be placed on life preservers or automatically activated in an emergency situation at any point in the world. These small radios send a continuous signal upward into the sky. The radio signal sent is recognized by all overflying aircraft and special satellites. This system is used around the world. When the emergency signal is picked up by an aircraft or satellite, a location fix is made on the signal, and rescue efforts are started. There have been cases

of America's emergency signal picked up by Russian satellites, the information forwarded, and the rescue quickly made.

Satellites and aircraft are constantly circling the earth at all hours of the day. We are really never out of contact of safety, if we are prepared for our journey.

Christians likewise are constantly being listened to all around the world. It really makes no difference to God if a man is in North America, Africa, or Japan; if he speaks one of a thousand languages; is black, white, red, or yellow. God is ready to receive our plea for salvation. He is able, he is willing, he is everywhere. However, God has chosen to work through man in sending his Word to the world. He has given this great task to you and me. We are God's feet, hands, heart, and voice to a lost world.

Matthew 9:37 NIV said, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest therefore, to send workers into his harvest field."

Clearly there are millions upon millions of souls not even aware there is ONE GOD to call on for help. The workers in the field are few and are spread very thin to accomplish this great work. We as Christians living in a nation of much, should not be waiting for someone else to do our task of reaching the world with the keys to heaven, belief in Jesus Christ. When we accepted our salvation gift, it was also A CALL TO EVERY SAVED PERSON, A

CALL TO MISSION, God's mission to a lost world.

We are responsible for reaching everyone we know, all within our influence with God's Word. When we go out, we should be equipping people with the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ, and connecting them to the Savior, who is constantly monitoring their cry for salvation. We need to give all we meet a EPIRB, not an electronic beacon, but a holy beacon, the Word of God.

Larry Otis is a Tupelo layman.

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